THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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SC NORMS FOR FAST DISPOSAL OF CHEQUE BOUNCE CASES

The SC on Friday issued a slew of directions for fast disposal of cheque-bounce cases, which have choked justice delivery system

NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS ACT TO BE AMENDED

The Supreme Court said there should be a single trial in multiple cheque-bounce cases, if transactions involved are the same. A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde asked the Centre to make suitable amendments in the Negotiable Instruments Act and recommended that cases lodged in 12 months time against a person be clubbed into one case

EVIDENCE THROUGH AFFIDAVIT

- The apex court directed all high courts to issue guidelines for trial courts for speedy disposal of cheque bounce cases
- The court also said the evidence in such cases can now be tendered by filing affidavits, and there would be no requirement to examine witnesses physically

30%

SHARE OF CHEQUE BOUNCE CASES IN TOTAL PENDENCY AT TRIAL COURTS & HIGH COURTS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Govt bid to ramp up oxygen and vax production, supply

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

FACED with an acute shortage of medical grade oxygen and vaccines in the wake of the massive second Covid wave that is nowhere near its peak, the Centre on Friday sought to ease all bottlenecks as part of its crisis management and step up their production.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi did a comprehensive review of the oxygen situation and urged Union ministries and state governments to build synergy to address gaps in the system. The meeting came a day after the government decided to import 50,000 metric tonnes of oxygen after first claiming that there is enough production capacity within India to meet the demand.

To address vaccine shortage, the government sought to scale up production of the indigenous Covaxin, developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, by providing ₹65 crore aid to the company's unit in Bengaluru. It has already allowed Mumbai-based Haffkine Institute to produce Covaxin on technology transfer basis. Covaxin's share in the current vaccine pool in just about 15%, as the present capacity of Bharat Biotech is about one crore doses a month.

The Centre plans to increase production to two crore doses by May-June and by 6-7 crore by July-August, for which talks are on with at least two more companies - Indian Immunologicals Ltd, Hyderabad, and BIBCOL, Bulandshehar.

The meeting convened by the PM specifically took stock of the oxygen availability in 12 high burden states, including Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. These states have already been allocated 4,880 MT, 5,619 MT and 6,593 MT for meeting their projected demand as on April 20, April 25 and April 30, respectively.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla on Friday wrote to the state chief secretaries, advising free inter-state movement of oxygen carrying vehicles, saying no curb shall be imposed on oxygen manufacturers and suppliers to impose geographical limits on supplies.

Some saints camping in Haridwar for the Maha Kumbh were agitated after an akhada claimed the mela would end on Saturday. A final decision will be taken by the Akhada Parishad, the apex body of 13 akhadas. As of now, at least 50 seers have tested positive. They include Mahant Ravindra Puri of Niranjani Akhada, who had announced that his akhada will consider closure of the event on April 17. P9

NATIONWIDE

	APRIL 15	APRIL 16
Fresh cases	2,00,739	2,17,353
Recoveries	93,528	1,18,302
Deaths	1,038	1,185

VARIANTS OF CONCERN

Of about 14,000 Covid samples whose whole genomic sequencing has been carried out, 1,189 tested positive for variants of concern, the Centre said on Friday

Covid victims being cremated at Swarnrekha Ghat in Ranchi on Friday | PTI

MAHARASHTRA Aurangabad district administration has acquired the oxygen plant of R L Steel in Chitegaon of Paithan to produce nearly 500 medical grade oxygen cylinders per day

NEW DELHI IndiGo to waive fee to change time or date on domestic tickets that are booked between April 17 and April 30 due to Covid. However, cancellation fee will be chargeable

UTTAR PRADESH Full lockdown across all UP districts this Sunday

ANDHRA PRADESH Vaccine stock exhausted, just 4,300 doses could be administered on Friday; CM writes to Modi for 60 lakh more doses

O_2 STATUS CHECK

MADHYA PRADESH
Daily supply up from 130 MT to 295 MT. In 34 districts, 1,273 O_2 concentrators installed till date. Air Concentrator Units are being installed in 8 districts

BIHAR
Govt claims oxygen availability is sufficient for the next 7-10 days. But private hospitals complain of oxygen scarcity

JHARKHAND
Govt claims there is no shortage, but patients are facing problems in getting oxygen support. A special task force has been formed to address it

Lancet study recommends localised, phased curbs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Lancet Covid Commission India Task Force, in a report titled 'Managing India's Second Covid-19 Wave: Urgent Steps', released on Friday, suggested localised, phased restrictions or closures in the country, while not recommending a blanket national or statewide lockdown. It said that the next two months can be used to prepare the education sector for safe opening of schools, colleges in July 2021 for the next academic year. FULL REPORT: P4

CM back in hospital with reinfection of Covid-19

Hours earlier, he chaired emergency meet; was due for 2nd vax dose

ANUSHA RAVI @ Bengaluru

A day after he returned midway from campaigning for the Belagavi Lok Sabha seat bypoll, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa was admitted to a private hospital in Bengaluru on Friday following re-infection of Covid-19. Incidentally, just hours before he tested positive for the Novel Coronavirus, the 78-year-old CM had chaired an emergency meeting to discuss the Covid-19 situation in Karnataka.

Yediyurappa had been campaigning for the upcoming bypolls in Karnataka till Thursday afternoon. He had developed fever and fatigue three days ago during campaigning and had tested negative for Covid-19 two days ago, but continued to have fever.

Following the CM's hospitalisation, the all-party meeting on the Covid-19 situation, scheduled for Sunday, has been cancelled. "Upon having mild fever, I got tested for Covid-19 today and my report has come out positive. Although I am doing fine, I am being hospitalised on the advice of doctors. I request all those who have come in my contact recently to be observant and exercise self-quarantine," Yediyurappa tweeted.

He was first taken to M S Ramaiah hospital on Friday morning and later shifted to Manipal Hospital. "A medical board of clinical experts has been instituted and currently, he is being evaluated and treated for respiratory symptoms," a statement said.

In August last year, the CM was hospitalised for a week due to Covid. He had taken the first dose of vaccination in March and was due for his second dose next week. "The CM seemed normal and enthusiastic in the morning meeting. We were to take the next vaccine dose in two or three days. He perhaps got reinfected during the poll campaign. We needed his leadership in the current situation but, unfortunately, he had to be hospitalised. He will continue to guide us from the hospital," said Dr K Sudhakar. P4

SENIOR MINISTERS WILL HOLD FORT

With Yediyurappa in hospital, Health minister Dr K Sudhakar said all meetings on Covid-19 etc., will be held under the leadership of senior ministers like Basavaraj Bommai, R Ashok and others. The CM will continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation from the isolation ward and will be in touch with the ministers and the chief secretary. Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar, as ordered by Yediyurappa earlier this month, will sign and announce all orders on restrictions, Covid-19 protocols, etc.

CURBS ON PUBLIC GATHERINGS

Mandatory implementation of 3.25 sqft distance per person

Events	Indoors	Outdoors
Weddings	100*	200
Birthdays	25	50
Funerals and related events	25	50

*Number of people allowed

Other private events- Not more than 50 persons	Political events- 200 permitted outdoors	Religious and cultural events are prohibited

STATEWIDE

	APRIL 15	APRIL 16
Fresh cases	14,738	14,859
Active cases	96,561	1,07,315
Deaths	66	78
Recoveries	3,591	4,031
Fresh cases in B'luru Urban	10,497	9,917

K'taka now has over 1L active cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WITH Karnataka recording its highest every single-day addition of Covid-19 cases with 14,859 fresh cases, the number of active cases in the state has breached the one lakh mark and now stands at 1,07,315. This is a 11.13 per cent jump from the 96,561 active cases on Thursday.

Karnataka is now ranked fourth among states with the highest number of active cases after Maharashtra (6,38,034), Uttar Pradesh (1,50,676) and Chhattisgarh (1,21,769). The state also recorded its highest number of deaths in a day with 78 added to the toll, taking it to 13,190 now.

Karnataka had last seen over one lakh active cases on October 21, 2020. The number had remained above that mark for 30 days from September 10, with only some days when it dipped marginally.

CONTINUED ON: P3

PANDEMIC EFFECT

Now, ICSE defers exams for Classes 10 and 12

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

TWO days after the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) cancelled its Class 10 board exams and deferred the Class 12 board exams, the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CICSE) on Friday deferred the board exams of both Classes 10 and 12 in view of the rise in Covid-19 cases across the country.

The Class 10 and 12 exams, which were to be held from May 4, have been deferred in the light of the nationwide surge in coronavirus cases, the CICSE chief executive and secretary Gerry Arathoon said. "We will closely monitor the situation and review it in the first week of June to take a final decision on the conduct of examination," he said.

"While Class 12 exams will be conducted at a later stage, Class 10 students will get an option to either appear for offline exams later or get evaluated on the basis of fair and unbiased criteria to be developed by Board," Arathoon added.

Several state boards too have already postponed or cancelled their exams. Chief ministers of many states had been pushing for postponement of the examinations in the light of the prevailing Covid-19 situation.

EC bans rallies from 7pm to 10am in WB

PRONAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

IN the all-party meeting called by the Election Commission on Friday, there were no takers for the TMC's suggestion to club the remaining phases of the polls. However, keeping in view the serious Covid situation, the EC asked parties to religiously follow protocols. The poll panel warned them of criminal action in case of violation of Covid guidelines.

"Candidates and political parties shall ensure absolute, repeat absolute, adherence to Covid guidelines..." the poll panel said in its order.

It asked star campaigners to tell their audience to wear masks in the beginning of the event itself and directed political parties to provide masks and sanitisers to all those who come to attend rallies.

The EC cut short the time given for rallies and public meetings by banning them from 7 pm to 10 am. It also extended the silence period from 48 hours to 72 hours for the remaining three phases scheduled to be held on April 22, 26 and 29. Bengal reported 6,747 new cases in the past 24 hours. P10

SHROUDED IN MYSTERY

Covid slams brakes on probe into sisters' deaths

MANJU SHETTAR @ Bengaluru

THE Covid-19 pandemic may have played spoilsport with the investigation into the suspicious deaths of two elderly women siblings at their residence in Gopalapura on Magadi Road on Thursday. The women had no external injuries and nothing was stolen from their house.

Jamuna (62) and Raani (59) were found dead on Thursday evening after their worried younger sister Prema rushed to their house when her repeated calls went unanswered. But the cause of their deaths may remain unsolved as they were found to be Covid-19 positive due to which an autopsy was not conducted. Only the food particles collected from their home have been sent for forensic analysis to check whether they had committed suicide by mixing poison in their food or not.

The preliminary investigation have revealed that no external injuries on them and even valuables, including cash and gold, were found intact, a police officer said. Strangely, both women were found dead in two different rooms with no hint of an attack.

When their bodies were shifted to Victoria Hospital, their swab samples were first collected for Covid-19 tests. They were both found to be positive for Covid19 and the hospital authorities did not conduct a postmortem as per the protocol. Besides, the doctors have not ruled out that the siblings may have died due to the disease itself – a strange possibility, considering that both were found dead in different rooms of their house. However, that cannot be verified now because they have already been cremated.

CONTINUED ON: P7

EXPRESS READ

UK approves Nirav's extradition to India

London: UK Home Secretary Priti Patel has signed off on the order to extradite fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi, wanted in India on fraud and money laundering charges related to the estimated $2-billion Punjab National Bank scam case. P9

Ajay Seth is new Economic Affairs Secy

New Delhi: Ajay Seth, a 1987 batch IAS officer of Karnataka cadre, on Friday assumed charge as Secretary Economic Affairs at a time when the economy is being threatened by the second wave of Covid. Seth replaces Tarun Bajaj, who moved as Revenue Secretary in the Ministry of Finance.

US keeps India in currency watch list

Washington: The US on Friday placed 11 countries, including India, China, Japan, South Korea, Germany and Italy in the currency practices monitoring list. The other countries are Ireland, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Mexico

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ALMANAC TODAY

• **Saturday:** 17/04/2021 • **Year:** Plava • **Ayana:** Uttharayana • **Ritu:** Vasantha • **Masa:** Chaitra • **Paksha:** Sukla • **Tithi:** Panchami 4.15 pm • **Nakshatra:** Mrigashira 10.36 pm • Moon in Mithuna Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 09:00 am to 10:30am • **Gulikakala:** 06:00 am to 07:30 am • **Yamaganda:** 01:49 pm to 03:26 pm

WEATHER — MIN 22°C | MAX 32°C — **FORECAST** Afternoon clouds

Sunrise 6.06 am | Sunset 6.32 pm | Moonrise 9.41 am | Moonset 10.55 pm

FAIR POINT

If polls can be held, why not NEET: Docs

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

DOCTORS in Karnataka are unhappy with the Centre's decision to postpone the National Eligibility and Entrance Test – PG 2021, which was to be held on April 18, due to the second wave of infections.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan announced on Thursday that the exam would be postponed but a new date has not yet been announced. The exam was earlier scheduled to be held in January and deferred to April 18. The Karnataka Association of Resident Doctors (KARD) has criticized the move.

"When the government can have the kumbh mela, elections and election rallies, is it incapable of conducting NEET PG exams? If they are saying that this decision was taken for our safety, do we have to remind the government that we are the same doctors who have been working in Covid wards for 8-10 hours in PPE suits and treating patients? Can we not wear masks for 2-3 hours and write the exams in safer places?" said Dr Dayanand Sagar L, president of KARD.

He said that the Centre did not understand the mental stress of over one lakh resident doctors who had been preparing for NEET for the past one-and-a-half years. "They should be allowed to write the exams. We do not want the government to postpone the exams. Those who can get NEET-PG seats can get back into health care and contribute to treatment in the pandemic. This is a very bad move by the government," he said.

Another doctor said, "This is a disastrous decision. One has been preparing for the past one-and-a-half years. Where are the odds of catching the virus higher: in the emergency wards of hospitals or sitting isolated and sitting an exam organized with full precaution?"

Ministers brainstorm to rein in Covid

Put in place measures to aid citizens, improve facilities, counsel patients and families

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

WITH the number of Covid-positive cases increasing in Karnataka, particularly in Bengaluru, the eight ministers representing the city assembly constituencies are back in action.

Deputy Chief Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, R Ashoka, Suresh Kumar, V Somanna, ST Somashekar, Byrathi Basavaraj, K Gopalaiah and Aravind Limbavali — a few of whom were in charge of electioneering for bypolls in Karnataka as well as outside the state — are in their constituencies, holding marathon meetings with officials.

On Friday, Housing Minister V Somanna, who represents Govindarajanagar assembly constituency and is in charge of Bengaluru East, held a meeting with BBMP officials and elected representatives. He conducted a review meeting on Covid cases, medical facilities and vaccination.

He later told the media that he had instructed BBMP and health officials not to wait till a BU number is generated, but to admit a patient immediately to hospital, and ensure there is no delay in treatment. He directed officials to increase the number of Covid Care Centres and fever clinics in each ward, and to start using hotels, if necessary. In two days, 10 more ventilators will be added to Ambedkar Medical College and the 150-bed Chakra Super Speciality Hospital in Shivajinagar will be inaugurated on Saturday to add to Covid-19 facilities, he said.

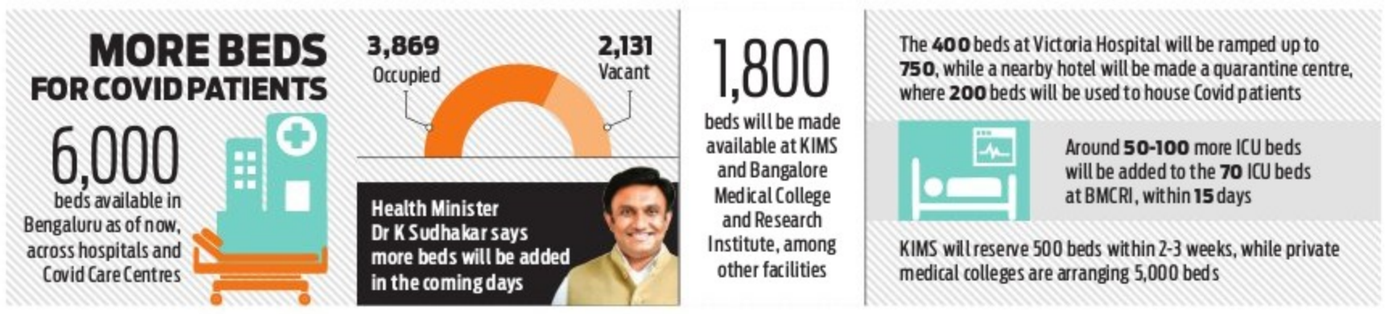
BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta and Housing Minister V Somanna at a meeting to review the Covid situation in the city on Friday | EXPRESS

A request was also made to Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to increase the supply of vaccines to Bengaluru. BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta has requested for 3 lakh vaccines for Bengaluru. Somanna said there was a need to increase aggressive testing in wards like Shivajinagar, and ensure better medical facilities.

Excise Minister and Mahalakshmi Layout MLA K Gopalaiah organised a Zoom interaction with people from his constituency from his office in Nagapura. The panel of Health Commissioner Dr KV Thrilok Chandra, Dr Sathyanarayana and Dr Satish from Manipal Hospitals, health and BBMP officials, besides experts, were present to answer questions on Covid and medical facilities, sources from Gopalaiah's office said.

Education Minister Suresh Kumar is holding frequent meetings with BBMP officials in his constituency, Rajajinagar. He has constituted a volunteers' team in each ward, which helps trace contacts of Covid patients, and brings awareness on vaccination.

The Deputy CM, who represents Malleswaram and is in charge of Bengaluru West, is conducting a review meeting every day. Sources in his office said he is planning to depute trained male and female nurses to interact with patients and their families who are isolated. They will assist them with medicine, and also counsel them.


MORE BEDS FOR COVID PATIENTS
6,000
beds available in Bengaluru as of now, across hospitals and Covid Care Centres
3,869
Occupied
2,131
Vacant
Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar says more beds will be added in the coming days
1,800
beds will be made available at KIMS and Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, among other facilities
The 400 beds at Victoria Hospital will be ramped up to 750, while a nearby hotel will be made a quarantine centre, where 200 beds will be used to house Covid patients
Around 50-100 more ICU beds will be added to the 70 ICU beds at BMCRI, within 15 days
KIMS will reserve 500 beds within 2-3 weeks, while private medical colleges are arranging 5,000 beds

STUDENTS DEMAND VACCINE BEFORE EXAMS

PEARL MARIA DSOUZA @Bengaluru

RATTLED by the surging Covid wave, Bengaluru's student community has sought to be vaccinated on priority, as colleges have made it mandatory for them to write examinations offline.

Students under the aegis of Bangalore Student Community, on Friday wrote to Health and Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar, seeking cancellation of examinations in 22 institutes of higher education, that are scheduled to be held in May.

"Cancelling exams is a priority, vaccinating students in the next two months is important. Statistics show the youth are getting infected rapidly. Students want the vaccine at the earliest. We have received hundreds of requests asking for arrangements to be made for vaccination," said Bangalore Student Community (BSC) president Dhruv Jatti.

Deputy Chief Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan had recently announced that examinations will be conducted only in offline mode, and only a few deemed universities may be able to conduct exams in online mode. Online exams are not possible in the government set-up, he had said.

He had earlier stated that there will be no change in the academic calendar and schedule for college examinations.

EXAMS COMING UP

Bangalore University has postponed the UG, PG and Engineering exams, due to start on April 19

The final year exams due to begin on May 5 will go on as per schedule, said an official from Christ Deemed-to-be University. Students who cannot write the exam in May can attempt it in June or July on first attempt basis

First semester students of VTU are expected to write their exams from April 19. The third semester students will be completing exams on April 17

COLOURFUL CHAPTER

A schoolboy admires a mural depicting the history of KSRTC at the Kempegowda Bus Station in Bengaluru on Friday

Bannerghatta zoo gets four baby cats

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN wake of the rising Covid cases and the grim situation, officials of Bengaluru Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBBP) shared some good news. After a wait of two-and-half years, a tigress had given birth to two female cubs on February 12.

Tigress Anushka gave birth to two cubs while lioness Sana gave birth to two female cubs on January 15. The BBBP management on Friday announced that these cubs along with the young ones of other wildlife species are up for adoption.

The management stated that not just spot adoption but even online adoption can be done. Citizens can contribute towards feeding them and their veterinary care. They can also name them.

BBBP Executive Director Vanashri Vipin Singh told TNIE that so far the response has been very good. The most pleasing part is that those who have adopted animals, call up and take note of their health and conditions. They even visit the zoo to see their adopted animal. The most sought after are lions, followed by elephants.

During the last financial year (2020-21), 230 adopters contributed a total of Rs 56,82,000 under the animal adoption programme and adopted 299 animals. Recently, a pharmaceutical firm adopted seven Asian elephants and donated a Bolero jeep for safari under its CSR programme.

This year, so far, 80 animals have been adopted by 64 people who donated a total of Rs 7,02,000 during 2019-20.

To encourage more adoptions, the management has now asked citizens to adopt more young animals, aged from a month to five years.

The zoo management has announced that adoption and naming will be done on a first-come first-serve basis. Hence, those interested in adopting and naming any of the animals can send an email to educationbbp@gmail.com.

EXPRESS READ

State gets HC notice over apartment owners Act

Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court on Friday sought response from the state government on a public interest litigation over non-implementation of the Karnataka Apartment Owners' Association Act, 1972, and not framing rules under the Act for effective implementation. The court noted that the petitioner has raised concern over failure of authorities to implement the Act. Therefore, the state government has to address this concern by filing a statement of objections to the petition, it added. ENS

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

17th April: People often ask me if I can read palms. I'd love to, because I think that hand-reading is an amazing art, but I've never had the time to learn more than the basics. However, what I would say is that there are many paths to the truth, and our palms and fingers can yield easily as much information as a horoscope.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20) At last, an expansion of choice is creating the need for more discussion, and you may be doing some hard thinking today. A recent muddle must be ironed out before you can afford to relax, but that might take another couple of weeks, at the minimum.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21) The Moon offers you a significant level of emotional support today. This is a time to concentrate on what you can do to make your life more meaningful, to find ways to make your daily routine more tolerable. A business opportunity will also be revealed.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) It does seem almost inevitable that one way or another you will have to concede that someone else may have been right all along, galling as this may be. In any event, your planetary patterns will quickly restore your good humour, encouraging a new-found confidence.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Now that Venus is beginning to shed its calming rays over your intimate affairs you can afford to feel protected. yet don't be surprised if, in the process, it shows up certain corners of your life you had forgotten about or tried to ignore. Time for a romantic adventure, perhaps?

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23) There is only one major planetary alignment which need concern you at the moment, and that involves Mars and Mercury. These planets are perfectly poised to administer a social tonic and give your morale a general boost, just what you need at the moment.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23) Seldom have you experienced a period which is at once so decisive yet has the potential to be so utterly confusing. Should you go or stay, begin or end a series of involvements that have become your whole life? Be patient and gradually the answers will work themselves out.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23) Belligerent Mars is stirring up your ambitions, indicating that this is really not a restful time for you, yet neither is it beyond you to take great strides forward. Other people will arrive bearing fresh responsibilities for you, and you'll also be searching out new business opportunities for yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) There is a cynical side to the Scorpionic nature: what is the point, you may ask, in struggling on when so little seems to be gained? Yet with the planets rapidly assuming a profoundly benevolent relationship to your sign, there is little doubt that events are now starting to move your way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22) The parts of your chart linked to material prosperity are still active and your business affairs seem to be growing ever more complex. What a tangled web you weave when you try! Now you must find your way out of any confusion, and reestablish some sort of certainty.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20) Whatever your day-to-day concerns, I must periodically remind you that the passage which you are now going through will be one of the most remarkable phases of your life. It is therefore necessary to make the most of everything, repeat everything, that comes your way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19) For many reasons, not least of which is a build-up of planets in personal regions of your horoscope, this is a time of year which appeals to your Aquarian spirit, yet it does seem that you are going to be busier than you would like, and much more preoccupied with routine tasks and chores than usual.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20) Your most supportive planets are now combining to raise your spirits, boost your morale and stimulate your interest in new areas. You therefore have no reason to feel down in the dumps and every cause to feel glad of the positive path you are now treading.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

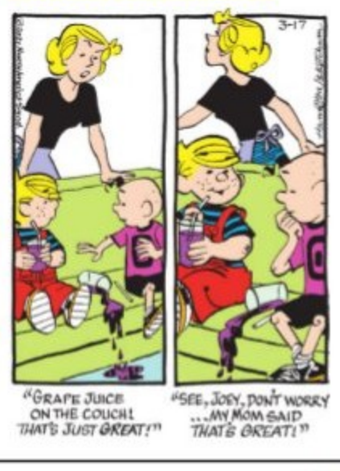
BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

COFFEE, DAG?
NOPE. IF I GET TOO ENERGIZED, I MIGHT GET TOO PRODUCTIVE
...AND THEN THE BOSS WILL EXPECT IT EVERY DAY
THAT'S TOO BAD. IT'S MAPLE BACON FLAVOR!
ALL RIGHT, BUMSTEAD...YOU'VE ALREADY FINISHED THREE PERFECT REPORTS! WHAT'RE YOU UP TO?

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE



SUDOKU

Medium: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

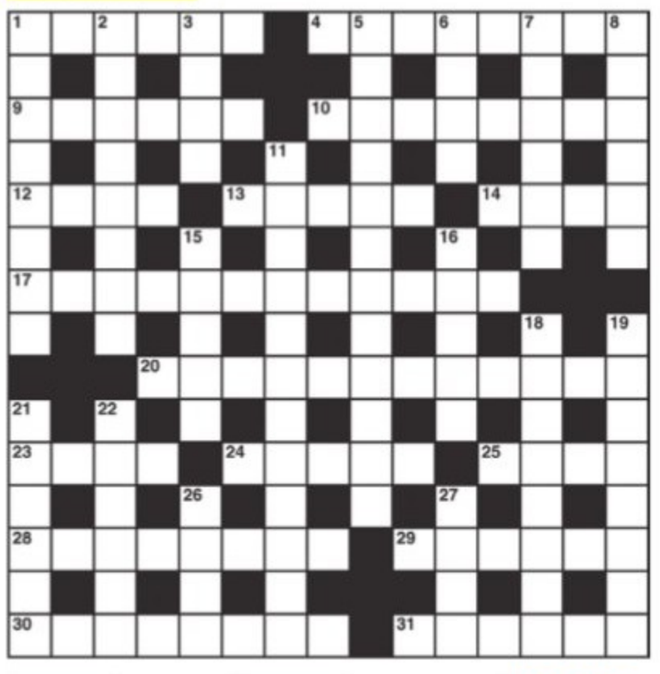
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

5						1		
8				2				3
		3	9	8		6		
9			8			7	4	6
7	2	6			3			5
		8		3	1	2		
2				9				1
		9						8

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

4	3	7	2	1	5	9	8	6
6	9	5	7	8	3	1	2	4
2	1	8	6	4	9	3	7	5
8	4	9	3	2	6	7	5	1
3	6	2	5	7	1	8	4	9
7	5	1	8	9	4	6	3	2
5	7	3	1	6	2	4	9	8
1	2	4	9	3	8	5	6	7
9	8	6	4	5	7	2	1	3

CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 It's erected for the reception (6)
4 Old fighter with fiery temper (8)
9 What water pipes should be kept behind? (6)
10 Jack Sprat's catch? (8)
12 Condition of suit perhaps (4)
13 They drift for the present on board ship (5)
14 Overtake father by boat (4)
17 Leading stylists of today (12)
20 They help people grow better (5,7)
23 Hop, skip and jump (4)
24 Go hunting we hear for a bird (5)
25 Game explorer (4)
28 Flier makes a revolutionary jump (8)
29 Manages to rope in live artist (6)
30 Had a fight and was thrown out (8)
31 In top gear? (6)

DOWN

1 Local tea place maybe (8)
2 Sign in and make an impression (8)
3 One spots the experts (4)
5 Run a big risk with an intense drama (4,4,4)
6 Receipts from the recording (4)
7 A way of approach that isn't welcomed? (6)
8 Register silent perplexity (6)
11 Nothing is gained when advances are made thus (8-4)
15 Are about to make love (5)
16 What a miller does is hard work (5)
18 Suggestive of financial aid in rent (8)
19 Married in the old-fashioned way (8)
21 Looks like one of Elgar's variations (6)
22 Unusual danger for a goose (6)
26 Occupying a pre-eminent position at work (4)
27 Young reporter has article on Caribbean island (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Piece, 4 Charger, 8 Ear, 9 Union dues, 10 Sunspot, 11 Irons, 13 Drools, 15 Bypass, 18 Susan, 19 Crew cut, 21 Erudition, 23 Use, 24 Tonight, 25 Sites.

Down: 1 Pleased, 2 Erroneous, 3 Equip, 4 Chintz, 5 Annuity, 6 Gnu, 7 Roses, 12 On account, 14 Landing, 16 Sitters, 17 Script, 18 Sweat, 20 Ernes, 22 Urn.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NILTG

SATEE

FNLISU

STURHH

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I thought I could stay in the car to watch the game...
Why are you bringing that? Do you even want to go?
SHE WANTED TO GO CAMPING, BUT HER NEW BOYFRIEND WAS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

"_____ _____ - _____ _____"

ANSWERS TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S: **Jumbles:** HONEY DWELL MANAGE THWART

ANSWER: An instrument's sounds can be written down using lines and symbols to – DENOTE THEM

Former Deputy Chief Minister Dr G Parameshwara got the first dose of the Covid vaccine at the Siddhartha Medical College here on Friday. "I wanted to test my immunity level as to whether the antibodies work. But seeing a surge of cases in the second wave, I decided to take the jab and advise all people above 45 years of age to take it without fail," the 69-year-old Congress leader told reporters.

As cases mount, state grapples with plasma shortage

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

WITH Karnataka grappling with a persistent surge in cases and fatalities amid the ongoing second wave, the demand for plasma has hit a new high. However, there is an acute scarcity of donors, with Bengaluru's plasma banks having run out of them as well.

"Calls have started pouring in at our plasma bank and even at other voluntary organisations, but we are running out of stocks," said Dr Vishal Rao U S, who heads the state-supported HCG plasma bank, adding that the demand has gone up almost five times.

The HCG plasma bank is administering plasma to about five patients every day, when the need is above 25 per day.

According to Dr Rao, with Remdesivir seeing a shortage and many times not as effective, many international bodies are relying on plasma to save lives. He said, "you can see there is a great increase in the number of people getting admitted to ICUs at designated hospitals. As on Friday, we have seen 577 patients in ICUs across the state. There will be many critical patients who can be saved with plasma therapy".

Ameen E Mudassar, founder of Covid Helpline Bangalore -- a website offering first-hand assistance to pandemic-related issues, said they are getting at least 11-15 requests for plasma daily.

According to experts, last year, the Karnataka Government even announced a cash prize of Rs 5,000 for those who came forward to donate plasma. However, they stopped coming from October, as many had not been paid the money. This caused a huge gap in the plasma stock. "In many cases, patients' relatives only call us when they are asked to arrange for plasma donors directly by the hospitals, due to shortage of the same," Mudassar said, explaining that the number of cases also dropped in between, and hence, the donations might have reduced too.

Interestingly, during the first wave, many donors at the blood banks and HCG were healthcare and frontline workers, but their numbers have also dwindled after the vaccination process started. Experts feel a lack of guidelines on plasma donation from the authorities could also be a reason for the crisis. "A person who got infected in the past six months can donate plasma 28 days after the second dose of vaccination," a doctor said.

"We need to have fresh donors who have passed a month since they got infected, but not beyond three months. Many of the old donors do not have strong antibodies required for the therapy," mentioned Dr Rao.

He hopes that the government will extend support on spreading awareness. Being a member of the Covid Task Force, he has alerted the CM too.

Recovery rate in state takes beating

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

WITH the massive surge in cases, the state now has a tally of 11,24,509 positive cases since March 8, 2020, when the first case was reported in the state in the pandemic. The state's positivity rate has now risen to 4.82 per cent while the day's positivity rate has spiralled upwards to 11.11 per cent.

The state saw 4,031 discharges on Friday, taking the total number to 10,03,985 from 9,99,958 on the previous day. However, the recovery rate has taken a beating with the figures falling from a high of 98.06 per cent on January 30 to 89.28 per cent on Friday.

Bengaluru Urban continued to record the highest number of cases among the districts in Karnataka. The district recorded 9,917 new positive cases -- compared to 10,497 new cases on Thursday -- pushing the total number of positive cases to 5,22,438 (5,12,521 on Thursday) with 57 deaths. Bengaluru Urban now has 79,616 active cases and is among the cities with the high active cases in the country.

MUTATED VIRUS REINFECTING MANY

Waning antibodies increase chances of second infection; Experts say elderly at high risk

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

WITH Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa reinfected with Covid-19, experts say there are high chances of antibodies waning faster, and also new variants playing a role.

However, the country does not have enough data to prove that reinfections are happening in large numbers, and to attribute the reason to variants, they say.

"The first infection does not provide strong immunity unlike measles, polio etc, where one infection is good protection. You can get respiratory tract infection a second time. According to a recent report, there is a 4.5 per cent chance of reinfection," said Dr Jacob John, renowned virologist and former professor at CMC Vellore.

Dr John said mutation occurs on the virus' spike protein, which almost certainly makes it more effective at binding with human receptor cells. Some of the variants carry another mutation, suspected of reducing the immunity acquired either by a past infection (with an increased possibility of reinfection), or by vaccines. However, the infection may be mild, he added.

The body of a person who died of Covid brought to Summanahalli crematorium for last rites on Friday | VINOD KUMAR T

Experts claim that while there's a lot of uncertainty and unclear clinical evidence, studies now point out that not only is reinfection a true threat, some high-risk groups, particularly those above 65 years of age, face the highest risk of getting reinfected by Covid-19.

"From waning immunity to pre-existing medical illnesses, there are many factors that make people prone to Covid severity. ICMR was doing a study, recalling people with Covid and checking on reinfections, but I am not aware of the results. However, many studies point to waning antibodies," explained Dr Giridhara R Babu, senior epidemiologist and member of the Covid-19 Technical Advisory Committee.

Current clinical evidence suggests that natural immunity after Covid lasts for at least 6-8 months. However, different people can display different responses. Experts also claim that age-related diminishing immunity could put the elderly at risk of getting reinfected, and more prone to complications the second time.

Meanwhile, doctors agree that there is no data on how many reinfection cases have happened. "Since CM Yediyurappa is a public figure, data is available. ICMR is doing a study but so far, there is no data available. About 5 per cent of patients could be reinfected," said Dr V Ravi, nodal officer for INSACOG and former dean at Dept of Neurovirology, NIMHANS.

A longitudinal cohort study in India, co-authored by Dr Shantanu Sengupta, professor, Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) found that some people who had Covid-19 lacked meaningful immunity against the coronavirus to prevent reinfection months later. Dr Shantanu says, "The study shows that if previously infected people are exposed to high viral loads months after infection, then 20%-30% of people may not have immunity as they are unable to neutralise the microbe and could get reinfected. Similar observations have been made in a study undertaken in Denmark."

Studies are now under way to understand the presence and activity of memory T cells which can prevent the infection from progressing to severe disease.

'People in their 30s and 40s most affected in this wave'

What are the usual symptoms in second wave?

People are experiencing severe fatigue, body pain, sore throat, loose motion and few experience loss of sense of smell, vomiting and chills. Other symptoms include dry cough and shortness of breath due to early lung involvement. People in their 30s and 40s are getting affected more this time. There are many cases where kids playing together have brought home the virus, eventually infecting the entire family.

What to do if one gets a false positive or false negative report?

RT PCR tests are the gold standard for detecting Covid-19 in the clinical practice. False positive results are not common but if the sample gets contaminated due to accidentally touching a contaminated glove or surface or through contamination of reagents, it is possible. False negative report can happen if the sample is not collected properly or if the patient has less viral load. If the patient has typical Covid symptoms and Covid Rapid Antigen test is negative, the person should be advised to do RTPCR for confirmation.

What are the different variants circulating in India and what is transmission, infectivity?

Earlier, there have been UK, South African and Brazilian variants of the virus already circulating in 18 states of the country but now a new double mutant strain of SARS-CoV-2 has been detected in India in late March 2021. This strain has two mutations which makes it highly infectious and has the potential to escape the immunity developed by natural infection or after taking the Covid vaccine. Samples collected from Maharashtra were analyzed which revealed that there has been an increase in the fraction of samples E484Q and L452R mutations. There should be comprehensive tracking of close contacts and immediate isolation of positive cases and effective treatment as per national treatment protocol. A total of 771 variants have been found from more than 10,000 samples which were analyzed for genome sequencing, as per the Director of National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

-Dr Shalini Joshi, Senior Medicine Consultant Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road

EXPRESS READ

Tumakuru sees all-time single-day rise in cases

TUMAKURU: Tumakuru district on Friday reported an all-time single-day hike in positives, compared with even the first wave, as 545 people tested positive during the day, taking the tally to 28,947. Except for 65 persons, all the fresh cases are of those aged below 60, including seven children under five years of age. The surge also gave rise to 2,484 active cases, including 15 under treatment in ICUs at designated Covid-19 hospitals, and as many as 35 in private facilities. The 199 discharges took the tally to 25,991. **ENS**

SAD DEMISE

R. M. Ramesh
[Ex -Secretary and Treasurer of Sri Rama Seva Mandali Shankarpuram, Bengaluru]
Expired on 15.4.2021
Deeply mourned by Agashe Family
Phone number : 9243402739

Education. Goals. And game changing decisions. edex Every Monday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT, BENGALURU
O.S. No. 75/2020
BETWEEN : 1. Smt. Kamalamma, W/o Honnegowda aged about 65 years, 2. Smt. Prema, D/o Honnegowda aged about 31 years, 3. Sri Srinivasa A.H., S/o Honnegowda, aged about 27 years, All are R/at Arakere Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. ...Plaintiffs
And : The Tahasildar, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District (Registrar of Births & Deaths). ...Defendant
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the plaintiffs herein have filed the above suit for the relief of declaration to declare that the **Honnegowda who is the husband of 1st plaintiff and father of plaintiff No.2 and 3 died on 18-07-2012** and the plaintiffs are the legal heirs of said Honnegowda and further direct the defendant herein to issue the death certificate of Honnegowda in favour of the plaintiffs. As such any interested parties who have the objections are hereby summoned to appear before the court either in person or by a pleader **on 11.06.2021 at 11.00 A.M** to answer the same, failing which the above case will be disposed of ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 15th day of April 2021.
By Order of the Court, Sheristedar, pri. Civil Judge's Court, Bangalore(R) Dist, Bangalore.
Address for Service:
Sri RAVIKUMAR .K, Sri ASHOK M.R, Advocates
No. 2256, 1st Floor, LIG, 3rd Phase, 'B' Sector, 7th Cross, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru-560064.
Mob No. 9900464494

IN THE COURT OF THE XXIII ADDL. CHIEF METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE AT BENGALURU
C. MISC. No. 1909 / 2021
BETWEEN: SRI M. RAGHURAMAREDDY S/o. Munirathnamreddy, aged about 40 years, R/at No. 110, A Narayanapura, Bengaluru-560 016 ...PETITIONER
AND: The Chief Commissioner/ Registrar THE REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS & DEATHS BBMP, Mahadevapura Zone, Bengaluru ...RESPONDENT
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, the above petitioner has filed the above petition under section 13(3) of Registration of Births and Deaths Act 1969, to enter the date of death the petitioner's father by name **Sri V. Munirathnamreddy, S/o. Late Venkataramareddy, who was died on 21-01-2018** in his residence at No. 110, A Narayanapura, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560016, for issuance of death certificate. Any person/s having any objection for entering the name and date of death of the petitioner's father in the records of Birth and Death are hereby notify to appear before the Hon'ble XXIII Additional Metropolitan Magistrate Court at Bangalore, in person or by a pleader **on 04-05-2021 at 11.00 am**, to answer the same, failing which the case will be disposed as exparte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 15th day of April 2021.
By Order of the Court, Sheristedar, 23rd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Bengaluru.

IN THE COURT OF THE XXIII ADDL. CHIEF METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE AT BENGALURU
C. MISC. No. 1907 / 2021
BETWEEN: SRI M. RAGHURAMAREDDY S/o. Munirathnamreddy, aged about 40 years, R/at No. 110, A Narayanapura, Bengaluru-560 016 ...PETITIONER
AND: The Chief Commissioner/ Registrar THE REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS & DEATHS BBMP, Mahadevapura Zone, Bengaluru ...RESPONDENT
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, the above petitioner has filed the above petition under section 13(3) of Registration of Births and Deaths Act 1969, to enter the date of death the petitioner's Grand father by name **Sri Venkataramareddy, S/o Late Munireddy, who was died on 21.12.2008** in his residence at No. 110, A Narayanapura, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560016, for issuance of death certificate. Any person/s having any objection for entering the name and date of death of the petitioner's father in the records of Birth and Death are hereby notify to appear before the Hon'ble XXIII Additional Metropolitan Magistrate Court at Bangalore, in person or by a pleader **on 04-05-2021 at 11.00 am**, to answer the same, failing which the case will be disposed as exparte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 15th day of April 2021.
By Order of the Court, Sheristedar, 23rd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Bengaluru.

pstcl PUNJAB STATE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033814, www.pstcl.org
O/o: Dy. CE/TS (Design), Telefax: 0175-2207774, E-mail: se-trd@pstcl.org
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Type of tender/TE no.	Open tenders/STQ-1054
Name & complete address of office giving tender	The Chief Engineer/TS, 3rd Floor, Shakthi Sadan, PSTCL, Patiala

Manufacture, testing, supply & delivery of **180MT** Hot Dip Galvanised Nuts and Bolts & **15MT** GI Step Bolts and **12MT** Electro-Galvanised Spring Washers EMD in form of BG in favour of AO/CPC, PSTCL, Patiala. Starting date of downloading of tender is Date of publication. Last date of downloading - 17.5.2021 upto 11:00hrs. Last date/time for bid submission - 18.5.2021 upto 11:00hrs., Date/time for opening of bids - 20.5.2021 at 11:00 hrs.
Detailed NIT/Specification may be downloaded from PSTCL E-Tendering website **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.nicgep/app** Corrigendum if any, will not be published in newspapers. As such the website may be visited regularly for updates.
76/12/81/2021/3753 Sd/-Dy. CE/TS (Design), PSTCL, Patiala

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केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
No. 9 ,Commercial Complex, Rainbow Drive Layout , Doddakanahalli, Carmelaram, Sarjapur Main Road, Bangalore - 560 035, PH: 080- 2844 1677 , M-8073381026, e-mail : cb2757@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable / Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officers (details mentioned below), will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 28.05.2021, 11.00 A M to 12.00 P M** for recovery of dues with further interest and cost thereon due to the **Canara Bank.** The details are as under: Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposits details are as under & the Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **25.05.2021 at 4.00 pm** by way of DD favouring Authorized Officer / or through online payment to Account the account the details are given below:

Sl. No.	Borrower Name/ Description of the movable / immovable assets:	Total liabilities	Branch Name	Possession Type	Reserve Price (In Rs)	EMD (In lakhs)	Bid Incremental Value	Authorized Officer / Service Provider name and contact number	Account details for remitting EMD.
1.	**Name of Borrowers Guarantors with address: (1). Mr. Balakrishna,** S/o Mr. A L Dhingra, residing at No 25, 11th Cross, KPC Layout, Sy.No. 38/1,Kasavanahalli , Sarjapur Main Road, Carmelaram,Bangalore-560035.**(2). Mrs. Yogita B K,** W/O Mr. Balakrishna, residing at No 25, 11th Cross, KPC Layout, Sy.No. 38/1,Kasavanahalli , Sarjapur Main Road, Carmelaram, Bangalore-560035 . **Description of property with boundaries:** All that piece and parcel of property bearing Residential land and building with Site No.25, formed in converted Sy No 38/1, Khata No. 96, Assessment Register No.96 (Present BBMP Khata No. 121/96/25), situated at Junnasandra village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 20 feet totally measuring 600 Sq. Feet and bounded on the: East by :Private Property, West by :30 feet road, North by :Site No 24, South by :Site No 26	**Rs.19,07,087.52 /-** (Nineteen Lakhs Seven Thousand Eighty Seven Rupees and Fifty Two Paise only) along with costs, expenses and future interest @13.95% p.a compounded with monthly rest **from 02/03/2019**	Doddakanahalli	**Physical Possession**	**Rs. 45,12,000/-**	**Rs. 4,51,200/-**	**Rs. 10,000.00**	M/s Canbank Computer Services Ltd Contact No:9832952602/080-23469665 Email Id: **eauction@ccsl.co.in** Address: Canbank Computer Services Ltd, No.218, J P Royale, 1st Floor, Sampige Road, Malleswaram. Website: **https://indianbankseauction.com**	Canara Bank , Doddakanahalli (R B D Layout Branch), Acc No.2757295000001, IFSC CODE: CNRB0002757
2.	**Name of Borrowers Guarantors with address: (1). M/s Sri Bhemas Garden,** No 648E, Srinivasa Nilaya, Sarjapura Main Road, Kaikondrahalli, Bangalore - 560035. **(2). C Trilokesh,** Proprietor Of M/s Sri Bhemas Garden, D502, Purva White Hall, Next To Megamart, Opp. Motherhood, Sarjapur Main Road, Kaikondrahalli, Bangalore - 560035. **(3) . Aruna (Guarantor),** W/o Trilokesh, D502, Purva White Hall, Next To Megamart,opp. Motherhood, Sarjapur Main Road, Kaikondrahalli, Bangalore - 560035 **Description of property with boundaries:** All that piece and parcel of the converted residential vacant property bearing Site No. 17, in the layout called "SIMHAPURI TOWN SHIP" formed in Survey nos. 483 and 485, Old V.P. Katha No.557, New Katha No. 2864/557/17, converted as per conversion orders bearing Nos. BDS.ALN. SR.(A) 101/1995-96, dated 15.11.1995 and BDS.ALN.SR.(A) 45/1994-95, dated 02.11.1995, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 2,400 Sq.Ft, situated at Jigani Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, and bounded on : East by : Site No.11, West by : 30 Feet Road, North by : Site No. 16, South by : Site No. 18.	**Rs 60,86,256/-** (Rupees Sixty Lakhs eighty six thousand two hundred fifty six Only) along with costs, expenses and future interest @12.65% p.a compounded with monthly rest from 26/06/2019	Doddakanahalli	**Symbolic Possession**	**RS. 25,92,000/-**	**RS. 2,59,200/-**	**Rs. 10,000.00**	M/s Canbank Computer Services Ltd Contact No:9832952602/080-23469665 Email Id: **eauction@ccsl.co.in** Address: Canbank Computer Services Ltd, No.218, J P Royale, 1st Floor, Sampige Road, Malleswaram. Website: **https://indianbankseauction.com**	Canara Bank , Doddakanahalli (R B D Layout Branch), Acc No.2757295000001, IFSC CODE: CNRB0002757
3.	**Name of Borrowers Guarantors with address: (1). M/s Red Blooming Buds Floritech Private Limited,** Represented By Its Directors Sl. No(2,3 &4), No 648e,srinivasa Nilaya, Sarjapura Main Road, Kaikondrahalli, Bangalore 560035. **(2). Smt. Aruna,** W/o Trilokesh, D502, Purva White Hall, Next To Megamart, Opp. Motherhood, Sarjapur Main Road, Kaikondrahalli, Bangalore 560035. **(3). Mr. C Trilokesh,** D502, Purva White Hall, Next To Megamart, Opp. Motherhood, Sarjapur Main Road, Kaikondrahalli, Bangalore 560035. **(4). Mr. Chaitan T,** S/o Trilokesh, D502, Purva White Hall, Next To Megamart, Opp. Motherhood, Sarjapur Main Road, Kaikondrahalli, Bangalore 560035. **Description of property with boundaries: (1).** All that piece and parcel of the converted residential vacant property bearing Site No. 10, in the layout called "SIMHAPURI TOWN SHIP" formed in survey Nos. 483 and 485, Old V.P. Katha No.557, New Katha No. 2858/557/10, converted as per conversion orders bearing Nos. BDS.ALN.SR.(A) 101/1995-96, dated 15.11.1995 and BDS.ALN.SR. (A) 45/1994-95, dated 02.11.1995, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 2,400 Sq.feet, situated at Jigani Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on: East by : 30 feet Road,West by : Site No 18, North by : Site No 11, South by : 40 feet Road. **(2).**All that piece and parcel of the converted residential vacant property bearing Site No. 11, in the layout called "SIMHAPURI TOWN SHIP" formed in survey Nos. 483 and 485, Old V.P. Katha No.557, New Katha No. 2859/557/11, converted as per conversion order bearing Nos. BDS.ALN.SR.(A) 101/1995-96, dated 15.11.1995 and BDS.ALN.SR. (A) 45/1994-95, dated 02.11.1995, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 2,400 Sq.feet, situated at Jigani Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on: East by : 30 feet Road, West by : Site No 17, North by : Site No 12, South by : Site No.10.	**Rs.43,43,172.37/-** (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Forty Three Thousand One Hundred Seventy Two and Thirty Seven Paise Only) along with costs, expenses and future interest @12.25% p.a compounded with monthly rest from 09/12/2019	Doddakanahalli	**Symbolic Possession**	**For Property No 1. RS. 28,08,000/- For Property No 2. RS. 25,92,000/-**	**For Property No 1: RS. 2,80,800/- For Property No 2: RS. 2,59,200/-**	**Rs. 10,000.00**	M/s Canbank Computer Services Ltd Contact No:9832952602/080-23469665 Email Id: **eauction@ccsl.co.in** Address: Canbank Computer Services Ltd, No.218, J P Royale, 1st Floor, Sampige Road, Malleswaram. Website: **https://indianbankseauction.com**	Canara Bank , Doddakanahalli (R B D Layout Branch), Acc No.2757295000001, IFSC CODE: CNRB0002757
4	**Name of Borrowers Guarantors with address:(1).M/s Sri Sai Depatmental Stores,** No.54/9,Hadu Siddapura ,Sarjapur Main Road, Carmelaram Post , Bangalore -560 035, Represented by its Proprietor -Mr. N Kiran, **(2).Mr. N Kiran** S/o Nataraja , **(3). Mr. Nataraja** S/o B Ramaiah, **(4). Mrs. Manjula** W/o Nataraja , Sl.No. 2 to 4 are residing at No.8 ,14th Block ,Nadisan Kiran, Adugodi ,Bangalore -560 030 **Description of property with boundaries:** All that Piece and parcel of immovable property No.28/51/76/34 ,32/2 ,Situated at Doddakannahalli Village ,Varthur Hobli, Bangalore, measuring East to West 25 ft. and North to South 15 ft. presently falling within the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP ward No.150 , and bounded on : East by: Road, West by: Munivenkatappa's Property, North by: Private Property, South by: G Shamanna's Property.	**Rs.34,45,663.99** (Rupees Thirty Four Lacs Forty Five Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Three and Paise Ninety Nine Only) along with costs, expenses and future interest @12.65% p.a compounded with monthly rest from 23/03/2019	Doddakanahalli	**Physical Possession**	**RS. 14,82,000/-**	**RS. 1,48,200/-**	**Rs. 10,000.00**	M/s Canbank Computer Services Ltd Contact No:9832952602/080-23469665 Email Id: **eauction@ccsl.co.in** Address: Canbank Computer Services Ltd, No.218, J P Royale, 1st Floor, Sampige Road, Malleswaram. Website: **https://indianbankseauction.com**	Canara Bank , Doddakanahalli (R B D Layout Branch), Acc No.2757295000001, IFSC CODE: CNRB0002757

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Bank at the number given above.

Date: 15.04.2021
Place: Bangalore
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

Rattled by the surging Covid wave, Bengaluru's student community has sought to be vaccinated on priority, as colleges have made it mandatory for them to write examinations offline

70 seers, BJP leaders were with CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Belagavi

WITH Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa testing Covid-positive on Friday, a large number of politicians, VIPs, Lingayat seers and BJP workers, who were in close contact with him during his two days of hectic political campaigning in Belagavi on Wednesday and Thursday, are in a dilemma.

Despite having fever and fatigue, the CM not only attended most of the political events and meetings in Belagavi, surrounded by many top politicians and seers, he also held roadshows at Gokak and Belagavi.

He met at least 70 Lingayat seers before leaving for political assignments.

Sources said that Arabhavi MLA Balachandra Jarkiholi, who joined the CM during campaigning on Wednesday, tested positive on Friday.

In the roadshow at Belagavi South Assembly segment, the CM was joined by leaders like Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar, ministers Umesh Katti and Murugesh Nirani, MLAs Abhay Patil and Anil Benake and Rajya Sabha member Iranna Kadadi as well as BJP leader M B Zirli. Sources said that at least 40 employees of hotel UK-27, where the CM stayed for two days, have been sent for testing.

New curbs on gatherings after CM chairs emergency meet on Covid

State Govt caps number of people at 100 for indoor events, 200 for outdoor dos

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister BS Yediyurappa on Friday morning called for an emergency meeting on the Covid situation in the state, following which a set of new restrictions and orders were decided upon. While the chief minister said that the status quo on night curfew in some district headquarters will continue, all other decisions on lockdown, extending curfews to other districts etc will be taken on April 18 after discussing the pros and cons during an all-party meeting.

"Cases are increasing and we reviewed the situation at the meeting. The night curfew will continue, but no other decision has been taken. Depending on what Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggests and what action other States are taking, we will decide on the next course of action. A meeting will be held on April 20, when night curfew ends, to decide on its extension and expansion," Yediyurappa said.

Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar, however, said that a few new decisions, including seeking additional oxygen cylinders from the Central Government, restricting the number of people at gatherings and reservation of hospital beds for Covid patients, were taken at the meeting.

As per the new restrictions, personal events like marriages cannot have more than 100 people indoors, while gathering for outdoor events has been capped at 200 people, instead of the earlier 500 limit. Other events like birthdays, funerals etc can have only 25 people indoors and 50 outdoors. All religious and cultural events are prohibited, but political events can have 200 people as long as they are held outdoors. An order to this effect was issued by Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar on Friday.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa chairs an emergency meeting to review the Covid situation in the state, in Bengaluru on Friday | EXPRESS

> **Cases are increasing and we reviewed the situation at the meeting. The night curfew will continue, but no other decision has been taken**
>
> BS Yediyurappa, Chief Minister

To ensure adequate beds, ICU and treatment facilities, corporate hospitals have been asked to tie up with star hotels nearby and convert them into makeshift isolation and treatment centres for patients with mild and moderate symptoms. Only those with severe and serious symptoms will be admitted to hospitals. "About 95 per cent of Covid patients do not need hospitalisation. I appeal to patients with mild and moderate symptoms to get treated, if you have to, in these makeshift hospitals at hotels. The same doctors who treat at hospitals will supervise you there as well. Some 3000 beds will be arranged in these hotel-turned-hospitals," said Sudhakar.

It was also decided that about 50 per cent of beds in private hospitals will be reserved for Covid patients referred by the government. A thousand beds in government medical colleges and 5,000 in private medical colleges will be reserved for Covid patients. One IPS officer, one IAS officer, officials from BWSSB, BESCOM and Suvarna Karnataka trust will be appointed as Nodal officials to supervise admissions at each big hospital. "They will ensure smooth admission and treatment process at all times. They will work in shifts and one of them will be at the hospital at any given point of time," Sudhakar added.

Hearse vehicles and crematorium services will be extended at no cost for families of Covid victims. Adding that there is no shortage of Remdesivir in the State, the minister said tender has been called for another 70,000 vials for procurement. The State will also submit a request to the Centre for 5,000 oxygen cylinders. An agreement for jumbo cylinders will be made with commercial oxygen suppliers too to ensure there is no shortage. Direct recruitment on a contract basis for the next six months will be ensured to hire doctors, nurses and paramedical staff. Hand stamping for patients in home isolation will be restarted apart from increasing testing and tracing processes. "We appeal to people to practise janata curfew voluntarily and help us bring down the number of cases," he added.

CRACKING WHIP

Punish traffickers of Remdesivir: Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

"TAKE strict action against those involved in black marketing of Remdesivir," Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai told the police top brass during a meeting here on Friday.

DG&IGP Praveen Sood, ADGPs and other senior officers were present at the meeting. Bommai told the police officers that there have been many complaints of the life-saving drug being sold in the black market and it should be stopped. He asked them to list out stockists, distributors and storage points to find out where the leakage is happening. He asked the officers to file FIRs and take strict action against those indulging in black marketing.

On migrants coming into Karnataka from Maharashtra, Kerala and other neighbouring states, he said they are working with the health ministry to ensure that there are sufficient testing centres along the borders to test those entering Karnataka. He said RT-PCR test is must for all those entering the state.

On the night curfew, he said people's cooperation is important.

On the vulnerability of the police force and their families, he said about 450 police family members have tested Covid-positive. Essential treatment is being given to those infected from among the police, Fire, Home guard and Prison services. An officer of the rank of Additional Director General of Police has been given the responsibility to ensure that police personnel and families are looked after.

Those in home isolation will be hand stamped from today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

All those in home isolation will get hand stamped from Saturday. This apart, the earlier practice of quarantine watch will be brought back, but it will be called isolation watch now.

Announcing this, BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta directed all zonal commissioners and health officials, during a virtual meeting on Friday, to start the exercise from Saturday. He said that proper contact tracing should be done by the booth officials.

A senior BBMP official said that like before, neighbours will also be informed to keep a watch on those in home isolation. As per High Court orders, homes of those under isolation will not have notices. A small informative sticker will, however, be put.

We won't delay ZP, TP polls: Election panel

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

WHILE the bypolls to Maski, Basavkalyan and Belgavi will be held on Saturday, there is a concern whether zilla and taluk panchayat elections, which are due in May, will be conducted amid soaring Covid numbers. All the three major political parties — BJP, Congres and Janata Dal (Secular) — were worried about holding local body polls. The term of ZP-TPs ends by May last week.

State Election Commissioner Dr B Basavaraaju told The New Indian Express that they are working towards May deadline, and if there is an issue with Covid numbers, they may postpone it to June and not beyond that.

Asked about soaring Covid-positive cases, he said, "We have a constitutional mandate to hold elections on time. Last time, when Covid was mentioned ahead of gram panchayat elections, some people filed a Public Interest Litigation before the court urging SEC to hold elections, which we did. There is no question of any delay whatsoever on zilla and taluk panchayat elections."

He said, "We are working towards getting the electoral rolls and reservation list ready."

Congress, which was in power between 2013 and 2018, did well in the last ZP-TP polls. This time, BJP will be seeking to fare well in these elections.

BJP General Secretary and MLC Ravi Kumar said, "We are getting ready for the polls. But there is general apprehension if they will be able to hold polls in May because of the rising number of Covid cases."

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee working president Eshwar Khandre said, "We are prepared. Considering the challenging public health situation, I feel all parties and everyone concerned should be consulted before SEC takes the final decision on the dates. Once the situation is reasonably safe, we can hold the polls."

Bandeppa Kashempur, JDS deputy leader in the Assembly, said, "How can we hold ZP-TP elections normally across the state when the Covid situation is worsening? SEC may need to postpone the elections till the public health situation improves."

BELAGAVI: CANDIDATES HOLD LAST-MINUTE CAMPAIGNING

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Belagavi

AS the high-voltage campaign for the bypoll to Belagavi Lok Sabha seat by all political parties, braving the critical Covid situation, came to an end, hectic door-to-door visits by both Congress and BJP candidates and their associates were brisk throughout Friday in several parts of the constituency.

Starting at 9 am on Friday, KPCC working president and Congress candidate Satish Jarkiholi visited religious places of different communities and many villages in rural Gokak and Arabhavi Assembly segments.

On the mood of the people and the prevailing political trend in the constituency, he said that both BJP and Congress will certainly get a minimum of 5 lakh votes each which are the "fixed votes" in the constituency.

"But in addition, we will get around 2 lakh votes more, given the response I got from all the eight Assembly segments of the Lok Sabha constituency over the last few days of campaigning," he added.

BJP candidate Mangala Angadi too toured several areas of the constituency in a last-ditch attempt to woo voters.

Even as the Covid situation is reaching the boiling point in Mumbai, former chief minister of Maharashtra and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis arrived in Belagavi from Mumbai during the final hours of campaigning and held a public event in at Hindalga.

Mangala Angadi had a grand event at KK Kop village, her husband's native place.

The MES camp, headed by candidate Shubham Shelke, also had hectic campaigning to attract voters in the Marathi-majority areas of Belagavi. Several top MES leaders too joined him.

Satish Jarkiholi held bike rallies in several villages of Gokak Assembly segment in the last few hours.

BJP workers take out a bike rally in Belagavi on Thursday | EXPRESS

Mallikarjun Khuba

Mala Narayana Rao

Sharana Salgar

Syed Qadri

BJP, Cong to face off in Basavakalyan

Basavakalyan (Bidar district): The district administration has made all arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Basavakalyan Assembly bypoll from 7 am to 7 pm on Saturday. Polling officers from Bidar taluk were taken to the Basavakalyan grounds early in the morning, and after the mustering process, they were sent to their respective polling booths. In all, 1,568 personnel, including presiding officers, assistant presiding officers, polling officers and 26 sector officers, are involved in the process. Of the 326 polling booths in the constituency, 95 have been identified as sensitive and additional security has been deployed there. The constituency comprises 23,9782 voters — 1,24,984 men, 1,14,794 women and four others. This includes 3,547 first-time voters — 1,384 men and 2,163 women. In all, 12 candidates are in the fray, including Sharana Salgar of BJP, Mala B Narayana Rao of the Congress, Syed Yasrab Ali Qadri of JDS and independent Mallikarjun Khuba. Though it seems there would be a quadrangular fight in the constituency, it may finally boil down to a straight fight between BJP and Congress.

Fate of Maski candidates to be sealed today

RAMKRISHNA BADSESHI
@Maski (Raichur district)

THE countdown has begun for the by-election to the Maski (ST-Reserved) constituency with the polling staff reaching 305 booths with necessary polling material, including EVMs and VVPATs, on Friday evening. This is the first time that the polling is being held for 12 hours, to allow voters to follow Covid protocols.

On Friday, the mustering was held at Devanampriya Ashoka Degree College, Maski from 8 am till 1 pm,

In all, eight candidates are in the fray -- Pratapgouda Patil of BJP, Basanagouda Turvihal of Congress, Obaleshappa BT of Karnataka Rastriya Samiti,

Pratapgouda Patil

Basanagouda Turvihal

Deepika S, Srinivas Nayak, Amaresh, Ishappa and Basanagouda (all five independents). But a close fight is expected between Pratapgouda Patil of BJP and Basanagouda Turvihal of Congress.

Both BJP and Congress have considered winning the Maski by-election a prestige issue.

TIMELY ADVICE

Aim at reopening schools by July: Lancet report

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

THE Lancet Covid commission India Task Force, in a report titled 'Managing India's Second COVID-19 Wave: Urgent Steps', has not recommended a blanket national or state lockdown. It has instead suggested localised, phased restrictions or closures.

It has recommended that the next two months can be used to prepare the education sector for a safe opening of schools, colleges in July 2021 for the next academic year. It suggested a temporary ban on gatherings of groups larger than 10 for the next two months. They said the government should report regularly on the frequency of AEFIs post vaccine and also provide financial support for genomic sequencing to identify mutants and variants.

Experts in Karnataka largely agreed with the report. Dr Pradeep Banandur, member of the Covid Technical Advisory Committee and Additional Professor, Department of Epidemiology, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, said last year's lockdown was to prepare for the impending number of cases, oxygen beds, ventilators, etc, while this year the country has facilities. As government beds are not sufficient, the state is negotiating with private hospitals for beds which will be worked out in a day or two, he said, adding localised containment measures have already been followed in Karnataka.

The second wave is expected to last 2-3 months and schools and colleges can be reopened once the test positivity rate is below 2 to 5 percent, he opined. Financial resources should be allocated for treatment and genomic sequencing, he added.

The report recommended an aggressive vaccine coverage of priority population groups, followed by phased opening up to younger populations with specific focus on the urban poor especially in states (and districts) with high rates of infection.

Dr Giridhara R Babu, Professor and Head Lifecourse Epidemiology, Public Health Foundation of India who is also a member of TAC and author of this report, said Karnataka can tie up with private manufacturers to produce vaccines. "It is high time we do it," he said.

> **SOME RECOMMENDATIONS**
>
> A mandatory seven-day institutional quarantine for all visitors arriving from other countries, with an RTPCR test conducted on day 8, and the option of completing another week in home isolation if the test is negative. Seasonal migration of workers from urban areas to rural parts is about to commence with the start of the harvest season. The State Government should support migrant labourers equipping them with masks, options for testing and vaccination and by setting up quarantine centres in host districts.

State to see 2L cases in next 1 month

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA will see over 2 lakh new Covid cases in the next month, according to an analysis by Project: Jeevan Raksha, an initiative of Proxima which focuses on advocacy, analytics and awareness in healthcare.

As of April 11, Karnataka reported 10,65,290 cases and the projection estimates that by May 10, the cases will shoot up to 12,90,000, which is 2,24,710 new cases in the next 30 days. The mortality rate too could increase with over 700-plus deaths, it shows. As of April 11, Karnataka had 12,889 deaths, and it could shoot up to 13,600 by May 10.

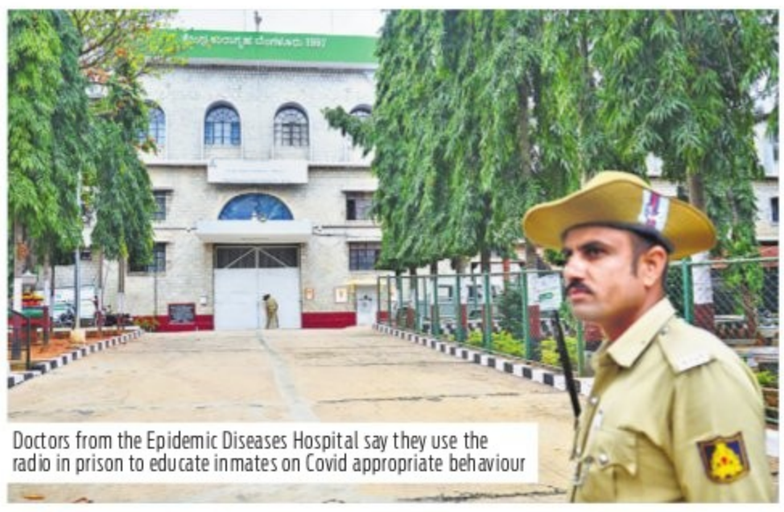
Mysore Sanjeev, convenor, Project: Jeevan Raksha, said, "We expect Covid cases to increase by 20 per cent by May 10, which will, unfortunately, contribute to an incremental

Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar

700-plus deaths. The cause for this is lack of political attention and focus, uncalled for and unilateral sharp reduction in testing in Bengaluru in February and cost of learning due to administration leadership change in the BBMP at this crucial juncture."

Recently, in an analysis, it showed that Karnataka had a decline in tests per day, from an average of 95,000-100,000 between October and January to 62,000 in February, which led to the recent spurt. The analysis stated that there was a 40 per cent drop in average tests per day in February as compared to November 2020.

Sanjeev said, "Containment management is a labour intensive and physically draining exercise for the administration. On the other hand, vaccination is a logistics and supply chain management subject. The state needs two dedicated leadership teams supported by a large execution team at the taluk level. It should form a separate and independent task force for containment management and vaccination, led by an Additional Chief Secretary-level officer. Unless the state government understands the dynamics of pandemic management and changes its strategy, the result and pain will be the same."



Doctors from the Epidemic Diseases Hospital say they use the radio in prison to educate inmates on Covid appropriate behaviour

Covid spurt from new prisoners, not old inmates: Hosp

Doctors at Epidemic Diseases Hospital say even if new prisoners test negative, they are quarantined for a week

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

BENGALURU'S Epidemic Diseases Hospital has treated 31 Covid positive prisoners in the past two months that it has been designated as the nodal centre for the treatment of patients from the Central Prison in Parappana Agrahara.

Hospital Medical Superintendent and executive committee member of Central Prison Dr Ansar Ahmed said that there has been no outbreak in the jail and that all those who had tested positive were prisoners who had been brought in from outside.

"The inmates have been comparatively safer than people outside. We use the radio in prison to educate inmates on Covid-19 appropriate behaviour such as wearing masks. Inmates also stitch their own masks," Dr Ahmed said.

Currently, six patients from prison are being treated at the hospital. Most prisoners have been asymptomatic, while those who had symptoms had mild cough and cold.

"Covid cases of prisoners that we have seen so far have been those who were convicted by court, or parolees returning to jail, who test positive after the mandatory RT-PCR test. Those who test positive are admitted to our hospital. After recovery, they are quarantined in a separate section in prison and not allowed to mingle with other inmates for a while," Dr Ansar said.

Even if new inmates test negative, they are still quarantined in a separate section of the prison for a week. After this, both prisoners who tested negative, and those who recovered undergo an RT-PCR test before being sent into the main barracks. The Central Prison has around 5,000 inmates. Prison authorities are now planning to begin vaccination of inmates aged above 45. There are 400 inmates aged above 45 and 91 above 60.

Immunisation will begin in two or three days. Jail authorities will coordinate with the jail hospital and government hospitals in the vicinity including Singasandra Government Hospital.

During the past year, the Epidemic Diseases Hospital has treated 438 Covid-19 patients. They have 40 beds for Covid-19 patients and 60 for non-Covid patients.

Judge to Bar: 'Sir' is enough, 'My Lord' excessive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN order to put an end to the colonial practice of addressing courts/judges as 'My Lord' or 'Your Lordship', **Justice P Krishna Bhat** of the Karnataka High Court on Friday put a note in the cause list -- the list of cases to be heard on the day displayed on the notice board -- requesting advocates to address the court/judge in a contemporary manner and in the Indian context.

In the note, Justice Bhat said: "Learned counsels are requested to avoid addressing the court with such excessive honorifics as 'My Lord' or 'Your Lordship', but are requested to adhere to a practice consistent with dignity and decorum of court which is more appropriate in Indian circumstances, like 'Sir'."

When the sitting began at 10.30 am, referring to what had been put up on the cause list as a note, Justice Bhat orally told the advocates what is required is a contemporary manner of addressing the court/judges in the Indian context.

Justice Bhat, born on August 8, 1960, was appointed Additional Judge of the High Court and took oath on May 21, 2020. Earlier, he was serving as district judge.

EXPRESS READ

2 Nepalis held for burglary

Bengaluru: Marathalli police arrested two burglars red-handed and seized booty worth ₹2 lakh including, a gold necklace and 1 kg of silver ornaments. The accused hail from Nepal and were caught when they were trying to sell the stolen gold at a nearby shop. The arrested duo are Ram Bahadur Biswa Karma (48) and Kamal Raj Biswa Karma (20). A senior police officer said that they had come to city a few years ago and were working as security guards. **ENS**

Are beds, medicines adequately available? HC asks state govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TAKING a serious note of people struggling for medicines, beds and oxygen amidst the sudden surge in Covid cases across the state, especially in Bengaluru Urban, the Karnataka High Court on Friday sought response from the State Government on the issue by Saturday.

Also, orally suggesting to constitute a high-level committee headed by a retired HC judge to monitor the availability of beds, Remdesivir and oxygen supply, and ensure the same to the needy, a division bench of Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Aravind Kumar said that their suggestion would ensure confidence among people, as everyone cannot come to the court to have their grievances addressed, and hence, the government should step in immediately and address the same.

Directing the Additional Advocate General (AAG) to address the court on the said issues on Saturday, the court orally observed that even the state can consider to waive charges being levied for cremation of persons who had succumbed to Covid-19, when a counsel pointed out the huge charges allegedly being levied for cremation.

In order to avoid litigants to suffer for approaching courts during the pandemic, the court passed the order extending the interim orders passed by the High Court, district courts, magistrate courts, family courts, labour courts and the tribunals under it, till May 29, 2021. However, the parties can apply for vacating interim orders and the same may be considered by the courts, the HC said, while asking the AAG to submit the state's view on extension of bail and anticipatory bail orders on Saturday.

New SOP, entry restricted

Meanwhile, the Registrar General TG Shivashankare Gowda (Incharge), High Court, issued notification prohibiting entry of litigants to the High Court complexes in Bengaluru, Dharwad and Kalaburagi, and trial and district courts in Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Ballari, Bidar, Dakshina Kannada, Hassan, Kalaburagi, Mysuru and Tumakuru. According to the notification, the recording of evidence in all civil and criminal cases is prohibited, except in the cases where a time schedule is fixed by the Supreme Court and High Court.

CRIME PATROL

Banned drugs in courier parcel seized

Bengaluru: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Bengaluru zonal unit, on April 8 seized 515gm of amphetamine — a banned psychotropic substance — from a parcel that was sent illegally to Doha from the city through courier. "The contraband drug was concealed inside cricket thigh guards along with hand gloves and elbow guards," NCB Bengaluru zonal director Amit Ghawate said. He said the value of the seized amphetamine in the grey market is around Rs 20 lakh. According to preliminary investigation, S Nashath from Kasaragod in Kerala is the alleged consignor of the contraband, which was to be received by A Kuzhiyal in Doha. The latter was arrested on April 13 from Mangaluru under the NDPS Act, 1985. Amphetamines are are often misused as performance-enhancing drugs by athletes and are also called "speed" or "uppers".

30-yr-old held for stealing from friend's house

Bengaluru: Bagalagunte police arrested a 38-year-old man, who had allegedly committed theft at a friend's house, and recovered valuables worth Rs 18 lakh. The accused, Siddappa BK alias Sanjay, hails from Mandya. Police said the complainant had filed a complaint stating that on August 18 last year, Sanjay had come home and a while later she went to a shop, while Sanjay and her son were at home. When she returned, Sanjay had left and she discovered some gold valuables missing. "Investigations revealed he had also taken an SUV from one, Veeranjaneyulu, in Yelahanka on rent. After paying rent for two months, he had escaped with it and also a two-wheeler belonging to the owner," police said. Police said two cases have been solved with his arrest. **ENS**

Two killed in separate road accidents

Bengaluru: Two men were killed in separate road accidents here on Thursday. In the first incident that occurred in Yelahanka traffic police station limits, a 27-year-old accountant was killed in a hit-and-run after a tractor rammed into his bike. The deceased Jayanth, who was working with a real estate firm in HSR Layout, hailed from Hindupur in Andhra Pradesh. In the other incident, Gopalakrishna (55), a security manager from Halasuru, was killed after he rammed his scooter into an auto-rickshaw. Police said the incident occurred in front of Army Supplies Depot on Cubbon Road and Gopalakrishna, who was allegedly over-speeding, rammed his scooter into an auto-rickshaw from the rear. A case is registered in Shivajinagar traffic police station in this connection. **ENS**

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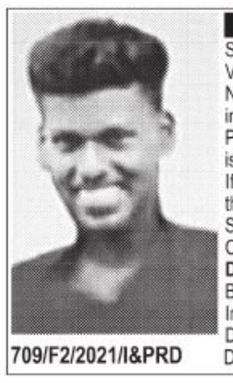
LOOK OUT NOTICE
Sri. Akhil, age 20 S/o Harikumar, Kandamkara Vilayil, Chunakkara Village, Chunakkara North, Alappuzha District who is the accused in Cr. 1085/2019 U/s 363,376 IPC & 3 r/w 4 of POCSO Act 2012 Kurathikad Police Station, he is absconding after the commission of the crime. If any clue or information is obtained about him that may be intimated immediately to Kurathikad Station SHO, Deputy Superintendent of Police Chengannur, District Police Chief Alappuzha.
Description: Height: 165 CM, Complexion: Fair, Body Shape: Lean, Wearing Dress: Nil.
Inspector of Police Kurathikad PS: 9497980278.
DySp Chengannur - 9497990043,
District Police Chief, Alappuzha - 9497996982.
709/F2/2021/I&PRD

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An e-Tender-cum-e-Auction Notice invites bids for "Allotment of Port land about 72 Acres on 60 (sixty) years long term lease basis for setting up of Port Based Capital Intensive Industries/ Tank Farms/Other Facilities for Port related purposes" is available in the website from 13.04.2021 to 16.06.2021. Interested bidders may log on the website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.
Dy. Secretary
PPT/PR/10/2021-22, Dt.16.04.2021

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Name of work: Improvements to Nagercoil town circulating area, balance reach works etc. between NJT and km 289/200.
Tender value: ₹ 1775.91 lakhs.
Completion period: 6 months
Dt.of opening: 10.05.2021 @ 15.30hrs
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Sd/- U.C.Das,Managing Director

HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT
O/o the Deputy Director of Horticulture, Cubbon Park, Bengaluru.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ತೋಆನಿ/ಕಬು/ವಿನಿ2/31/2020-21 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15-04-2021
SHORT TERM RE-E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Short term biannual Re-E-Tender are invited by the Deputy Director of Horticulture in Two Cover System through e-Procurement Portal for the Work of Repair and Maintenance of Borewell / Open Well / Pump Set / Fountain & Electric Lawn Movers at Sri Chamarajendra Park (Cubbon Park) Division. Further details may be had from Website: http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
1) Approximate cost of Tender: Rs. 22.05 Lakhs. 2) Cost of Application Form: Application Fee shall be paid as directed in "e" Procurement Government of Karnataka. 3) E.M.D: Rs. 1,10,500/- shall be paid in favour of "e" Procurement Government of Karnataka. 4) Last date for submission of Tender: 30-04-2021 upto 5.00 PM. 5) Pre Bid Conference: on 21-04-2021, Time 12.00 - 1.00 PM. 6) Date of Opening of Technical Tender Forms: 03-05-2021 at 11.00 AM. 7) Date of Opening of Financial Tender: 05-05-2021 at 12.00 Noon. Tender authority reserves the right to accept or reject the tender.
Sd/- Deputy Director of Horticulture
Cubbon Park, Bengaluru
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1) The contractor shall quote his Percentage offer on the Cost of work excluding Royalty and material testing charges as mentioned below.
2) The offer for work shall be exclusive of GST. The GST at the applicable rate shall be paid separately by PCMC for work
3) Regarding the Royalty, the policy that the corporation determines will be binding on you.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost put to the Tender (Rs)	Cost of Work excluding Royalty and Material testing charges (Rs) (4+6)	Royalty (Rs)	Testing Charges (Rs)	Earnest money (Rs)	Security Deposit (Rs)	Time limit in calendar Months	Cost of Tender Document + With G.S.T. (non refundable) (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Construction & Development of 24 M Wide D.P.Road with Adjoining 18m & 12m Wide D.P. Road and Other Road in Prabhag no.16 at Ravet SR.No.103 to 147.	269,844,066	269,588,216	4,011,682	255,850	1,349,220	13,492,203	24	37,430
2	Development of FootPath and Cycle Track on Both Side of Road From Birla Hospital to Walhekarwadi in Prabhag no.17.	241,902,669	241,742,719	2,072,384	159,950	1,209,513	12,095,133	24	37,430

Time table for the tenders shall be as follows:

Online sale of tenders	:-	Date- 17/04/2021 to Date- 15/05/2021
Last date of submission of tenders	:-	Date- 15/05/2021 up to 3.00 pm
Pre Bid Meeting Date & Time	:-	Date- 4/05/2021 at 3.00 pm
Place of Pre Bid Meeting	:-	Office of City Engineer, 1st Floor, PCMC Main Building Pimpri, Pune - 411018
Date of opening of tenders	:-	Date- 19/05/2021 at 11.00 am (if possible)

The Municipal Commissioner PCMC reserves the right to accept or reject any tender partially or completely without any reason thereof. The details of above works, such as Security Deposit, Earnest Money Deposit, Terms & Conditions of the Tender and Schedule of works, are available on web site www.pcmcindia.gov.in, http://mahatenders.gov.in. In case of any technical problem related to the tender document, the same can be referred to the NIC email support at eproc@nic.in or on telephone numbers 0120-4200462, 0120-4001002, 0120-4001005,0120-627787.
ADVT No. 823
No: ENGG/TEN/2-B/827/2021
Date :- 15/04/2021
Sd/-
City Engineer
Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation,
Pimpri – 411 018.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients are negotiating to purchase the Property, which is more fully described in the Schedule below,
Any person/s having any right, title, interest, lien, charge or claim whatsoever in, upon or to the Schedule Property or to any portion thereof, by way of any easement or under agreements, arrangements, lease, trust, inheritance, gift, partition, bequest, possession, mortgage, exchange or under any deed/instrument easement or however otherwise, may submit his/her/its/their objection/s claim/s, in writing to me at the under mentioned address, through Registered Post, along with the supporting documentary evidence, within Seven days of the issuance of this notice, failing which my clients will proceed on the basis that there are no claims over the Schedule Property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that converted land being portion of land bearing Survey No.185/2, measuring 4A and 3.5G, Converted land bearing Survey No.187/2, measuring 1A 35G and converted land bearing Survey No.185/1, measuring 2A and 4G, all situated at Thindlu Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.
R. NAGESH, Advocate
No. 1/9, Jinka Plaza, 3rd Floor, Office No. 2, 6th Cross, Near Kanishka Hotel Bangalore - 560 009.
Bangalore Date : 17-04-2021

HG Date:15/5/2021
IN THE COURT OF THE XII ACMM JUDGE, AT BENGALURU
O.S. No. 5500 OF 2020
BETWEEN : 1. Mr. M.V. Balakrisha, S/o Late G. Venkataramanappa, Aged about 57 years, R/at. No : 420 / 4, 3rd Main, 1st 'A' Cross, Mathiere, Bangalore-560054.
2. Smt. Mrs. M.V. Varalakshmi, D/o. Late Venkataramanappa, Aged about 55 years, R/at No. 12, Subbaiah Lane, Murugeshpalya, Bangalore - 560017.
3. Mrs. Jayanthi V. D/o, Late G. Venkataramanappa, Aged about 48 years, R/at. No.457/3, Kumbarabedi, Gangamma Temple, Hesaragatta, Bangalore-560088 ...PETITIONERS AND
The Commissioner, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore ...RESPONDENT
Whereas, the petitioners above named has filed un petition under section 13 (3) of the Karnataka Registration of Births & deaths Act for issue of death certificate of Mrs. Ashwathamma, wife of late Venkataramanappa, who expired on 22.09.2009
The court has fixed 15th day of May 2021 at 11.00 AM for the hearing of said petition, interested persons may enter appearance on that day and file their objections if any, failing wherein the matter will be heard and determined exparte.
All Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 9th day of April 2021.
By the order of the Court
Sd/- Shirestedar, XII ACMM Court, Bangalore
Advocates for Petitioners :
Subramanya M, Advocate,
No.4(10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore-560001.

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CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Soumya Uday Kumar D/o. Late K. Rangaswamy Resident of No.61/1, Sri Ranga, 3rd Cross, SBM Colony, BSK I Stage, Bengaluru 560 050 have changed my name to Soumya Rangaswamy vide affidavit dated 16.04.2021 before D.K. Rameshappa, Notary.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MANDAKINI JENA, aged about 32 years, D/o Nikhil Kumar Jena, ALIPADA, Ukundara, Jugalsinghpur, Odisha-754111, presently camp at Bengaluru, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from MANDAKINI JENA to FARHEEN KHAN, henceforth I shall be known and called as FARHEEN KHAN only, vide affidavit dated 06-04-2021, sworn before Advocate and Notary GANGARAJU .B.N at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MADAGA VENKATA RAMUDU, Resident at Flat No. B-607, SSVR Tridax, Balagere Road, Varthur, Bangalore-560087, have changed my name from MADIGA VENKATA RAMUDU to MADAGA VENKATA RAMUDU, vide affidavit dated 16.04.2021, sworn before Advocate & Notary K.N. RAMADEVI, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, GHAZIYAH ARIF, W/o. Moin Parveez, resident of Madrasa Tanveerul Islam Cross Line Mavalli, Murdeshwar, Uttar Kannada, PIN:581350, have changed my previous name GHAZIYAH ARIF to New Name GAZIYA, vide affidavit Dated 14/04/2021 before the Notary Sivakumara.M.N.

CHANGE OF NAME
"I, B MADHUVANDHINI, D/o S. Balasubramaniasamy, R/o B901, Tower 3, Daffodils, Adarsh Palm Retreat, Devarabisinahalli, Bellandur, Bangalore, Karnataka-560103, have changed the name of my minor daughter C.R. LEHA, aged 8 years, and she shall hereafter be known as to M. LEHA", vide affidavit dated 09-04-2021, sworn before Advocate and Notary K.C. GOWTHAMI at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I B.S. Chennappa, S/o B.C. Shivanna, aged about 48 years, resident of No.356, 'MATHA', 6th Main, 9th Block, Malagala Circle, Nagarabhavi II Stage, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560072 do hereby solemnly affirm and state that I have daughter born on 05/06/2006. In her school records as B.C.PRAGATHI. Her name in the Birth Certificate is PRAGATHI CHENNAPPA. In order to avoid any confusions in future intends to retain her name PRAGATHI CHENNAPPA. So, my daughter name now onwards will be known and called as PRAGATHI CHENNAPPA for all purposes, vide affidavit dtd. 16.04.2021 before Notary Public H.H. Nagaraj, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) SIMSON (RABINDRANATH), S/o. S.Mohan Raj, residing at No. 451, Pillanna Garden 3rd Stage, Bangalore -560045, have changed my name from (OLD NAME) SIMSON (RABINDRANATH) to (NEW NAME) RABINDRANATH in My Church Records vide affidavit Dated 15/4/2021 sworn before Notary O.S.Chengappa, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, DIVYA .M, W/o Lokesh .B.S, aged about 27 years, R/a #77/G, 17th Cross, 4th Stage, 4th Block, A.D.Halli, Gururaj Bar, A.D. Halli, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079, do hereby declare that I have changed my minor son's name from ASHRITH .S.L to AGASTHYA .S.L, both the names i.e, ASHRITH .S.L and AGASTHYA .S.L are one and the same and belongs my son only, vide affidavit dated 26-03-2021, sworn before Advocate and Notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO at Bangalore.

LOST
LOST
I, Arjun Bharath Curam residing at 1167, HMT Layout, VI Block, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560097 have lost my X, XI, XII Standard and all Eight Semester Mechanical Engineering Marks Cards of NITTE and Degree Certificate of VTU on 05.11.2020 at Milan in Italy. Am applying for duplicate. If originals are found will return the duplicates. Arjun Bharath Curam.
Cell: 94485 44915.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, LEENA KUMARI P.C., W/o Ramasubramani, aged about 39 years, R/a No. 15, 21st Cross, 1st Block, Vishwapriya Layout, Begur, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-560068, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from LEENA KUMARI P.C. to LEENA .R, henceforth I shall be known and called as LEENA .R only, vide affidavit dated 16-04-2021, sworn before Advocate and Notary V. RANGARAJU at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ANEES SALMA, aged about 45 years, W/o Syed Ismail Zabi, R/a #22, 'B' Block, KPTCL Quarters, B.G. East Telephone Exchange, Lazar Road, Lazar Layout, Frazer Town, Bengaluru-560005, Karnataka State, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from ANEES SALMA to SHERJIL FATHIMA, henceforth I shall be known and called as SHERJIL FATHIMA only, vide affidavit dated 16-04-2021, sworn before Advocate and Notary GANGARAJU .B.N at Bangalore.

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THEODORE ROOSEVELT

LOST DOCUMENT

I, Mr. C. Prabhakar, Aged about 47 Years S/o. Chikkajunjappa, Residing at: House No.3/1, Dhanalaxmi Badavane, Tindlu Main Road, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore - 560097, Situated at : Kodigehalli, Yalahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Site No. 3, Khata No. 186/2, has lost the following original property site documents, (Gift Deed No. BYP-1-03241-2008-09, BOOK-1, IN CD BYPD27, DT: 18.12.2008, Registered in the office of at Byatarayanapura Sub Registrar). **If you found please Contact: 7022906702,** in this regard, a Police Complaint has also been lodged at Kodigehalli Police Station.

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s Sumadhura Homes LLP.,
No.108/2, Millenia Building, 1st Main, MSR Layout, Munnekollala Village, Marathahalli Ring Road, Bangalore-560037, Karnataka.

State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka (Constituted by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India) have accorded Environment Clearance for Proposed Construction of Residential Building BF+GF+7UF called "ASPIRE AMBER" at V.P.Katha No.191, Sy No.114/5, Doddabanahalli Village Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk and Bangalore-66. Vide Letter No. SEIAA:139:CON:2020 Dated: 6th April 2021.

The copies of the clearance letters are available with Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Bengaluru and may also be seen on the website of Karnataka State Forest Environment and Ecology Department.

http://seiaa.kar.nic.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client proposes to purchase from **Mr.K.Vasanth Kumar,** Bangalore claiming to be the owner of the Schedule Property described herein. Persons having any claim / objection / interest in the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to put forth the same in writing with supporting documentary evidence with the undersigned within ten (10) days from the date of this publication and any claim / objections filed thereafter shall not be binding upon our client and our client shall proceed to complete the sale transactions as if there are no claims/ objections.

PROPERTY SCHEDULE DESCRIPTION

All that piece and parcel (Landmark) Site No.385, formed by BDA, 10th Block, further extension of Anjanapura Badavane, Bangalore, measuring East to West 6-00 mts and North to South 9-00 mts totally 54.00 square mts (East) Site No.384, (West) Site No.386, (North) Site No.386, (South) Site No.418, (North) Road Note: (Schedule A) Site No.385, formed by BDA 10th Block, further extension of Anjanapura Badavane, Bangalore measuring East to West 6-00 mts and North to South 9-00 mts totally 54.00 square mts.

Professional Tax Enrolment No.193596563. Mob.9886046496./9916344715.

Sd/- **Ramesh. J. Solanki,**
Senior Journalist,
High Court Advocate & Notary, No.301/4, 34th 'A' Cross, 1st Floor, 9th Main,4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 011.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that my clients entered into an agreement to purchase the Schedule property from its Owner: **M/s. COUNTRY CONDO'S LIMITED** {formerly owned by M/s Country Club (Bangalore) Ltd}, having its registered Office at No.8-2-703, Mahogany Complex, Ground Floor, Amrutha Valley, Road No.12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500 034.

Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for the sale of the Schedule property by the said owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, **within 10 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the industrial land measuring (i)1 Acre 07 Guntas bearing **Sy.No.101/3,** (ii)1 Acre 06 Guntas bearing **Sy.No.102/3,** (iii) 1 Acre bearing **Sy.No.103/17,** (iv) 11 Guntas bearing **Sy.No.103/1,** (v) 7 Guntas bearing **Sy.No.103/2** and (vi) 19 Guntas bearing **Sy.No.103/17, totally measuring 4 Acres 10 Guntas,** situated at **Kumbalgodu Village,** Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded as follows :

East by : United Spirits' Industry
West by : Land of KIADB
North by : Land in Sy.No.146 & 148
South by : Dodda Aaladamara Road

Sd/- **S.F.Goutam Chand**
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560 004

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform all and whomsoever it may concern that my client **Sri Kishore Yarra S/o Sri Surya Narayana** is the absolute owner in possession of the schedule property, having purchased from **Sri Fazal Ahmed & others duly represented by their GPA Holder M/s BHUMIKA BUILDERS, represented by its Partners Sri Suresh B & Smt. Kavitha Suresh D.S.** vide the Sale Deed registered as Document No.8647/2017-18 of Book-I, CD No.JAYD318, Dated 20.12.2017, registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore. Now, my client is intending to avail loan from the Banks / Financial institutions by mortgaging the schedule property.

If any other person/s has/have any manner of right, title, interest, demand, claim, charge or lien over the schedule property, they are hereby requested to file their objections to the mortgage of the said property to the Financial Institutions / Banks and shall inform/object the same in writing along with the photocopies of the documents relied for such claim/ objections, through the registered post with acknowledgment due to the undersigned **within 10 days** from the date of publication of this notice.

If no valid claim/objection is received by the undersigned as aforesaid, my client shall proceed to avail loan from the Banks / Financial Institutions / Co-operative Societies by mortgaging the schedule property deeming that no one else has/have any manner of right or claim or interest whatsoever over the schedule properties.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece & parcel of the Flat bearing No.306 (Municipal No. SF-306–2986/2065/2142/ 98,97, 96,99) in the Second Floor of the apartment known as **BHUMIKA PRIMROSE,** measuring 1360 sq. ft. of super built up area along with one car parking space in the Stilt Floor, together with 331.69 sq. ft. of undivided, share, right, title and interest in the property bearing No.2986/2065/2142/98, 97,96,99), measuring East to West 190 ft. and North to South 65+62/2 ft. in all measuring 12065 sq. ft., situated at Kothnur, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on the East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Road, South by : Private Property.

RAGHAVENDRA P. HOGADE, ADVOCATE
No.186/8, 1st Floor, 'ABHISHEK COMPLEX' Sirur Park Road, Behind Nataraj Theatre Seshadripuram, Bangalore–560 020.

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM to Tender Notice No. 31 UBL 2021 of 08-04-2021

The above mentioned Tender Notice, the name of the work to be read as :
(1) Provision of sliding boom type barrier for interlocked LC Gates over Hubballi Division. (Total-11 LC Gates)
(2) Provision of sliding boom type barrier for interlocked LC Gates over Hubballi Division. (Total-18 LC Gates)
Total = 29 LC Gates

All other terms and conditions will remain the same.

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager
(Signal & Telecommunication), Hubballi
PUB/15/AAS/PRB/SWR/2021-22

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public, my Client **ALLADA GANGAMAMBA,** W/o Late Allada Malleswara Rao, residing at No.2112, Prestige South Ridge, Hosakerehalli, Bangalore - 560085. Mobile No. 9676400456.

My client hereby declares that my client Daughter **ALLADA SUNITA RAO,** has executed Registered General Power of Attorney her mother's name i.e., **ALLADA GANGAMAMBA,** dated 07-11-2012, registered as document No.97/2012, Book-IV, registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, Vallabhanagar, A.P.

My client said original General Power document registered as document No.97/2012, Book-IV, is lost /misplaced in their house even though they have searched thoroughly not able to trace out the said General Power of Attorney, in this behalf lodged online police complaint Vide Serial No.1015136 Lost Report No.094055/2021 dated 13-04-2021 and after thorough search she has not been able to trace out the original document and as such through this Public Notice she has confirmed that the above said original General Power of Attorney document has been lost.

If anybody finds / traces the said original **General Power of Attorney** document it is requested to contact and handover to the under signed immediately and the finder will be suitably rewarded.

SHIVANNA, Advocate
No.24 12th Main Road, 4th Block East, Jayanagar, (Near Sub-Registrar Office), BANGALORE-560 011. Ph: (M) 9901507257
Bangalore, Date:16-04-2021

IN THE COURT OF III ADDL CIVIL JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT, BENGALURU

O.S. No. 583/2019

BETWEEN: Smt. Padma Priya Rupe ... Plaintiff

AND: Smt. Subbamma and others ... **Defendants**

SUMMONS TO THEDEFENDANT No.8: Sri. MOHAMMED SHAFIULLA KHAN, aged about 54 years R/at No.42, 3rd Cross, H.M.T. Layout, Mathikere, Bengaluru-54.

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff has filed the suit for permanent injunction and other consequential relief against You and others. Therefore, you are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court on **01.06.2021** at about 11.00 A.M. either in Person or through an Advocate to answer all materials questions failing which the case will be determined in your absence, treating exparte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No.9/2 (Old Sy.No.9) measuring to an extent of 2 Acres 02 Guntas situated at Ananthpura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengakuru north Taluk and bounded on:
East by: property of munimotamma **West by:** property of Mariyamma, **North by:** property of Chikkamma and venkatappa,
South by: property of venkatappa.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on 15.04.2021.

By order of the Court Sheristedar, PRL Civil Judge's court bangalore (R), Bangalore

Address for Service:
Narasimharaj, Advocate
0/at. No.3, 2nd Floor, "Thimmaiah Chambers", 1st Main, Main, 2nd Cross, Gandhi Nagar, Bengaluru-560 009.

MANDYA DIST. CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES UNION LTD.

E-Mail: manmulpurchase@gmail.com, Tele: 08232–274571

IFT NO: MMU/PUR/E-Procu./Tender-01/2021-22 Date: 15.04.2021

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through E-procurement portal only)

Mandya Milk Union Ltd. invites e-Tenders for Supply of Chappals / Shoe & Socks Interested tenderers may please refer detail notice inviting tender for eligibility criteria & other details. Tenderers can downloaded documents from: **15-04-2021**, Last date of submission of tender: **30-04-2021** at 17.00 hrs, Date of opening of Technical tender: **03-05-2021** after 11.30 hrs & Commercial Bid opening will be intimated. Interested Tenderer's may download bidding documents from the e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** / website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and also contact helpline No: 080-25501227/25501216, e-mail:hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.

For more information contact MANAGER(PURCHASE) Mob: **9513888247.**

Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

e-TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SUPPLY OF STORES No-E-22/2021

Firms are requested to Login to **http://www.ireps.gov.in-ogin>E.Tendergoods** & services (new) and quote against these tenders. Manual quotations will not be entertained for these tenders. Closing time for all tender 14:30 hours.

Sl.No.	Tender No.	Description	Due Date
1	29213443	LOW MAINTENANCE LEAD ACID	19-APR-2021
2	26212199	Brake Head for WAM4/WAG5/WAG7	21-APR-2021
3	04210701B	MIRROR ASSEMBLY	22-APR-2021
4	04210835	DRAFT YOKE FOR DRAW GEAR	22-APR-2021
5	26212636	Cylindrical Roller Bearing	27-APR-2021
6	04210038B	GUIDE BUSH FOR AXLE BOX GUIDE	28-APR-2021
7	04210662	UIC TYPE ELASTOMER FLANGE	28-APR-2021
8	04210817	FOOT PLATE ARRANGEMENT	29-APR-2021
9	26210061A	Surge Arrestor (Pos. No. 9)	29-APR-2021
10	26212172	Set of Primary springs	29-APR-2021
11	04210160	SILENT BLOCK TYPE A	30-APR-2021
12	06215004	NEURO NAVIGATION SYSTEM	30-APR-2021
13	11210367	CABLES OF SIZES.	30-APR-2021
14	26212717	AXLE BOX HOUSING WITH GREASE	30-APR-2021
15	44210594	KIT FOR CONSTANT CONTACT	30-APR-2021
16	26205020A	Traction Motor Type: HS15250A	04-MAY-2021
17	11210246	STRAIGHT METRIC METAL THREAD	06-MAY-2021
18	15210500	GREEN, RED & YELLOW aspect Main	10-MAY-2021
19	44210595	KIT FOR CONSTANT CONTACT	10-MAY-2021
20	04210897	HEAD STOCK COMPLETE	12-MAY-2021
21	82205395	SMPS BASED IPS 4 LINES	26-APR-2021
22	78211077	VRLA Type 12 AH capacity Batteries	10-MAY-2021
23	78211078	Double acting Hydraulic shock absorber	07-MAY-2021

The following e-bid has been published in GeM website. Firms are requested to login to **www.gem.gov.in** and quoted against the following e-bid. Manual quotations will not be entertained.

24	GEM/2021/B/1153068	Ayanavaram – Repair & Maintenance of staff quarters and water supply distribution system in Ayanavarm colony for a period of **02 years.**	22-APR-2021

PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF
RURAL WORKS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

(E-Mail address – cerw_bbsr@yahoo.com)
Lr. No. 12096 // Dt. 13.04.2021

"e" Procurement Notice for bridge work in Odisha

0-71 **1st corrigendum to Online-01 (Bridge)/2021-22 dt. 05.04.2021**

1. Name of the work : Construction of bridge work (Balance work)
2. Total No. of works : 01 (One) no
3. Estimated cost : Rs 1254.94 lakh
4. Class of contractor : Special & Super Class
5. Period of completion : 24 (Twenty Four) calendar months
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid identification No	No. of bridge works	Availability of tender online for bidding	
			From	To
Chief Engineer (Buildings), Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar	Online- 01(Bridge) /2021-22	01 (One) no	23.04.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	13.05.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Buildings), Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

OIPR- 25123/11/0002/2122

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK

e mail – serw_ctc@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online RWC – 10/21 Letter No.- 1329 Date :- 15.04.2021
0-64 **e-Procurement NOTICE**

1. Name of the work : Construction of **Periodical Maintenance road works of Post DLP PMGSY** roads in the District of Cuttack and Jagatsinghpur.
2. Class of Contractor : **B & A** Class
3. Time for Completion : As specified in the **Column-6 of the Annexure.**
4. Detail Projects : **As per Annexure attached**
5. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack	Tender Online RWC - 10/ 21	20.04.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	04.05.2021 to 05.00 P.M.	03.05.2021 up to 02.00 P.M.	05.05.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later on

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack OIPR- 25097/11/0002/2122

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Short Term Tender Notification (Through E-Procurement portal)

Appointment of Project Management Consultancy for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Notification No.
1	MWD, MDRS at Kummanayakanakoppa Village, Dharwad Taluk, Dharwad District.	KHB/CE/MDRS/PMC/NIT No.6 / 2021-22 Date : 08.04.2021
2	MWD, MDRS at Karenahalli Village, Madhugiri Taluk, Tumakuru District.	KHB/CE/MDRS/PMC/NIT No.7 / 2021-22 Date : 08.04.2021
3	MWD, MDRS at Devanayakanahalli Village-2nd Phase, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.	KHB/CE/MDRS/PMC/NIT No.8 / 2021-22 Date : 08.04.2021
4	MWD, MDRS at Sagara Villag, Shahapura Taluk, Yadgiri District.	KHB/CE/MDRS/PMC/NIT No.9 / 2021-22 Date : 08.04.2021
5	MWD, MDRS at Byatanala village, Hanagal Taluk, Haveri District.	KHB/CE/MDRS/PMC/NIT No.10 / 2021-22 Date : 08.04.2021
6	MWD, MDRS at Raichur (Yaramaras Camp) 2nd Phase, Raichur District.	KHB/CE/MDRS/PMC/NIT No.11 / 2021-22 Date : 08.04.2021
7	Moulana Azad Bhavana (2nd Phase) at Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru.	KHB/CE/MAKAB/PMC/NIT No.12 / 2021-22 Date : 08.04.2021

Last date receive of tender : 23.04.2021 Upto 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned office address :
Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board,
Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru Phone No. 080-22273511/080-22100077
web site : https://khb.karnataka.gov.in, https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/DDU/165/AKAR/2021-22

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

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PUNJAB STATE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033814, www.pstcl.org
O/o: Dy. CE/TS (Design), Telefax: 0175-2207774, E-mail: setrd@pstcl.org

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Tender Enquiry No.	STQ-6079 (Under Vendor Development Policy)

For manufacture, testing and delivery of surge arresters with porcelain housing : 16 Nos. of 60kv, 9 Nos. of 120 kv & 22 Nos. of 198 kv 10kA station type heavy duty, class-III zinc oxide (gapless type). 1. Last date & time for downloading of tender - 16.05.2021 upto 05:00 PM. 2. Last date & time for submission of tender - 17.05.2021 upto 03:00 PM. 3. Date & time for Opening of tender - 19.05.2021 at 10:00 AM.

Detailed NIT/specification may be downloaded from Punjab Govt. e-tendering website **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.nicgep/app.** Corrigendum, if any, will not be published in newspapers. As such the website may be visited regularly for updates.

76/12/84/2021/3760

Sd/- Dy. CE/TS (D),
PSTCL, Patiala.

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED

office: Vidyut Bhawan, Janpath, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur 302005
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM-II)
MM Building, Old Power House Premises, Banipark, Jaipur-302006
Website: www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl E-mail: jaipurdiscom@jvvnl.org
Tel. 0141-2202607, E-Mail id:- semm2@jvvnl.org

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

e-tenders are invited for purchase of Single Phase Static Energy Meters with Meter Box (TN-2643, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00043), Three Phase Static Energy Meters with Box (TN-2644, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00042), Three Phase Static Energy Meters without Meter Box (TN-2645, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00044),HT & MIP Meter Box (TN-2646, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00045), 33 KV CT-PT Sets of various ratios (TN-2647, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00046), 11 KV CT-PT Sets of various ratios (TN-2648, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00047), Body Camera (TN-2649, UBN-VVN2122GSOB00048),Camera (TN-2650, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00049),Insulated Pliers, Insulated Screw Drivers & Phase Testers (TN-2651, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00050), Empanelment of Venders for supply of 11 KV & 33 KV CTPT sets (TN-2652, UBN-VVN2122GSOB00051),Empanelment of Venders for supply of Meters (TN-2653, UBN-VVN2122GSOB00052),Empanelment of Venders for supply of MCBs and Circuit Breakers (TN-2654, UBN-VVN2122GSOB00055), 8.0 MVA 33/11 KV Power Transformers (TN-2655, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00056),EHV Grade Transformer Oil (TN-2656, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00057),36 KV Outdoor VCB Kiosks (TN-2657, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00058),12 KV Outdoor VCB Kiosks (TN-2658, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00059)Award of Rate Contract for supply of Spare Parts of VCBs by the past suppliers (TN-2659, UBNVVN2122GLRC00060), 200 Amp. & 400 Amp. L.T. Distribution Kiosks (TN-2660, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00061), T.C.Fuse Wire (TN-2661, UBN-VVN2122GSOB00062), 11 KV Sectionalizer (TN-2662, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00063), Earthing Chains (TN-2663, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00064), LED type Chargeable Torch (TN-2664, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00065), Non-contact type AC Voltage detector (TN-2665, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00066), Resuscitator (TN-2666, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00067), 11 KV Ring Main Units (TN-2667, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00068)16 KVA & 25 KVA Single phase Aluminium wound BIS Level-2 completely self protected (CSP) Distribution Transformer with provision of LT Bushing Box (TN-2668, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00053) and Spanner Set (TN-2669, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00054). All the details regarding tenders are available at web site **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.** In future, corrigendum/ extension, if any, shall be published only at above web sites.

Raj.samwad/C/21/597 JPR-2614 (2021) **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM-II)**

For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
E-Mail: cmr_doddaballapur@yahoo.com www.doddaballapurcity.gov.in

ನಸದೊ/ಶಾಂ.ವಿ/ಟಿ.ಎನ್.ನಂ.11/2020–21 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.03.2021

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆರವರು 2020–21ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಹಾಗೂ 2020–21ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ/ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ.

1. DMA/2020-21/WS/WORK_INDENT108642/CALL-2
2. DMA/2020-21/WS/WORK_INDENT108643
3. DMA/2019-20/WS/WORK_INDENT89806/CALL-2
4. CMC/DBP/computerisation of records/2021

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **(www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು **ಕ್ರಸಂ.1, 3 ಮತ್ತು 4ರ** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.04.2021ರ 17.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ,** ಕ್ರಸಂ.1ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.04.2021ರ 17.31 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ.03 ಮತ್ತು 04ರ** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.04.2021ರ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಪಡೆದು ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಉನಿಕ/ಬೆಂಗ್ರಾಜಿ/ಶಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/20/2021–22 ನಗರಸಭೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡ ಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ಕೋವಿಡ್-19. ಆತಂಕ ಬೇಡ; ಮುನ್ನೆಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ಇರಲಿ.
ಮಾಸ್ಕ್ ಧರಿಸಿ | 6 ಅಡಿ ದೈಹಿಕ ಅಂತರ ಪಾಲಿಸಿ | ಕೈಗಳ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ಕಾಪಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ

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TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Address: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai – 400013.
Branch Address: No 82/1, Ground Floor, Krishna Towers, Bengaluru 560025

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(Under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the below Borrower/ Co- Borrower that the below described immovable property mortgaged to Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd. (Secured Creditor), the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd. (Secured Creditor), will be sold on **20.05.2021 "As is where is" & "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** for recovery of total sum of outstanding from Borrower/Co-borrower. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned below.

Whereas the sale of secured asset is to be made to recover the secured debt and whereas there was a due of a sum of mentioned below. Notice is hereby given that, in the absence of any postponement/ discontinuance of the sale, the said property shall be sold by E- Auction at respective branches. The sealed E- Auction for the purchase of the property along with EMD Demand Draft shall be received by the Authorized Officer of the **TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD.** The sale of the property will be in "as is where is condition" and the liabilities and claims attaching to the said property, so far as they have been ascertained, are specified in the Schedule.

Sl No.	Loan A/c No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Heir(s)/ Legal Representative (s)	Amount as per Demand Notice	Reserve Price	Earnest Money	Date of Property Inspection	Last date & time of submission of sealed Bid / Offer	Date & Time of E-Auction
1	10073942	Mr.Umashenkar H S (Borrower) Mrs.Roopa N, (Co-borrower),	Rs.15,83,374/- as on 20th September, 2019	Rs. 19,20,000/-	Rs. 1,92,000/-	13.05.2021 between 11 AM to 5.00 PM.	before 19.05.2021 till 5 PM.	20.05.2021 between 2.00 PM to 3.00 PM

Description of Secured Asset: Detailed address of the property financed with area: SCHEDULE A: All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site.No118, formed in Sy.18, situated at Chikkabettahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Presently comes within BBMP Limits, Ward No.3, Bangalore and bounded on: East by: 20 Feet Road, West by: Site No.125, North by: Site No.119, South by: Site No.117. Measuring East to 30 Ft and North to South 20ft totally 600 Sq.ft

2	9093815	Mr.Sagar R (Co-Borrower), husband/legal representative of deceased Mrs. KAVYA (Borrower).	Rs.59,47,872/- as on 10th May, 2018	Rs. 91,20,000/-	Rs. 9,12,000/-	13.05.2021 between 11 AM to 5.00 PM.	before 19.05.2021 till 5 PM.	20.05.2021 between 2.00 PM to 3.00 PM

Description of Secured Assets: Detailed address of the property financed with area: SCHEDULE A: All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No. 16, Katha No. 32/2 and 33 situated at Konanakunte Village, Uttarahali Hobli, Banglore South Taluk measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 40 feet in all measuring 1200 Sq. Ft, along with residential building consisting of Ground, First, Second and Third Floors, RCC roofed House with all Civic amenities thereon, which is coming under the jurisdiction of BBMP and bounded on: East by: Site No. 17, North by: Property belonging to Mr. Muniyappa, West by: Site No. 15, South by: Road.

At the Auction, the public generally is invited to submit their bid(s) personally. The description of the Secured asset/ property that will be put up for sale is as per above Schedule. The E auction will be stopped if, amount due as aforesaid, with interest and costs (including the cost of the sale) are tendered to the 'Authorized Officer' or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such secured debt, interest and costs has been paid before the date of the auction. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with this sale shall, however, directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and to the following further conditions: The E-auction will take place through portal https://DisposalHub.com on 20.05.2021 between 2.00 PM to 3.00 PM with limited extension of 10 minutes each.

Terms and Condition: 1. The particulars specified in the Schedule herein below have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. In the event of any dispute arising as to the amount bid, or as to the bidder, the lot shall at once again be put up to auction subject to the discretion of Secured Creditor. 2. The property shall not be sold below the Reserve Price. 3. Bid Increment Amount will be: Rs.10,000/- (Ten Thousand Only) 4. All the Bids submitted for the purchase of the property shall be accompanied by Earnest Money as mentioned above by way of a Demand Draft favoring the "TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD." payable Vijayawada Address: at No 82/1, Ground Floor, Krishna Towers, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025. The Demand Drafts will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders after auction. 5. The highest bidder shall be declared as successful bidder provided always that he/she is legally qualified to bid and provided further that the bid amount is not less than the reserve price. It shall be in the discretion of the 'Authorized Officer' to decline acceptance of the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so. 6. For reasons recorded, it shall be in the discretion of the 'Authorized Officer' to adjourn/discontinue the sale.7. The person declared as a successful bidder shall, immediately after such declaration, deposit twenty-five per cent of the amount of purchase money/bid which would include EMD amount to the 'Authorized Officer' within 24Hrs and in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be put to fresh auction/Sale by private treaty. 8. In case the initial deposit is made as above, the balance amount of the purchase money payable shall be paid by the purchaser to the 'Authorized Officer' on or before the 15th day from the date of confirmation of the sale of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day. 9. In the event of default of any payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be put to fresh auction/Sale by private treaty. The deposit including EMD shall stand forfeited by TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD and the defaulting purchaser shall lose all claims to the property. 10. TCHFL has not engaged any broker/agent apart from the mentioned auctioning partner for sale/auction of this property. Interested parties should only contact the undersigned or the Authorised officer for all queries and enquiry in this matter. 11. Details of any encumbrances, known to the TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD, to which the property is liable: Nil. Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property and any other known particulars bearing on its nature and value: Nil 12. For any other details or for procedure online training on e-auction the prospective bidders may contact the Service Provider, M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited, Address: #203, 2nd Floor, Shree Shyam Palace, Sector: 4&5 Crossing, Railway Road, Gurugram – 122 006 through its Mobile No. +91 97100 29933, +91 98100 29926, Tel. No. +91 124 4 233 933, E-mail ID: CSD@disposalhub.com or Arijit Bhatt, Email id Arijit.bhatt@tatacapital.com Authorized Officer Mobile No 9029073280. Please send your query on WhatsApp Number – 9029073280. 13. Please refer to the below link provided in secured creditor's website **For Sl. No. 1: https://bit.ly/3mTgzxJ, For Sl. No. 2 : https://bit.ly/3dljGeA** for the above details.

These conditions only for Sl. No. 2: Mr.Sagar R (Co-Borrower), husband/legal representative of deceased Mrs. KAVYA (Borrower). : 1.An appeal bearing SA.No. 386/2019 is pending, filed before Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal at Bangalore by the Mr.Sagar R against the Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited. 2. TDS of 1% will be applicable and payable by the highest bidder over the highest declared bid amount. The payment need to be deposit by highest bidder in the PAN of the owner/ borrower(s) and the copy of the challan shall be submitted to our company. **(Including above conditions)**

Date: 17/04/2021, Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd.**

STATE BANK OF INDIA

Authorised Officer's Details:
Name: **Sri. Sanjay Sinha**
E-mail ID: sbi.15628@sbi.co.in
Landline No.(office): 080-25943791

Retail Assets Central Processing Centre/ III
Banaswadi, Maruthi Mansion
7M/422, 80 feet Road, Kalyan Nagar
Bengaluru-560043, Tel:080-25943791
Fax:080-25943793
Email: sbi.15628@sbi.co.in

Appendix – IV-A
[See Proviso to rule 8(6)]

Sale notice for sale of immovable property

E-auction SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSET UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSET AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISO Rule 8 (6) of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

1.Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrowers that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of State Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on **05.05.2021** for recovery of **Rs.33,98,285/-** (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty Five only) as on 05.04.2021 + expenses + costs due to State Bank of India, Secured creditor from **Smt.Reyeesa Banu** D/o. Rizwan Pasha (Borrower). The reserve price, earnest money deposit bid increment amount and last date for receipt of EMD will be as under :-

Property No.	Reserve Price (below which the property will not be sold)	Earnest Money Deposit	Bid increment amount	Last date for receipt of EMD
1.	Rs.21,00,000/-	Rs.2,10,000/-	Rs.10,000/-	03.05.2021

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Tender No: SBI/RACPC-III/EA/01/2021-2022
Property No. 1: Smt.Reyeesa Banu:

All that piece and parcel of Flat bearing No.F44, First Floor, D-Block, consisting of Two Bed Room, apartment known as "Pyramid Bilberry" measuring 537 sq.feet carpet area, 585 sq.feet built up area and 702 sq.feet super built area inclusive of proportionate share in common areas passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use with vitrified flooring and one covered car parking in the stilt floor, with 307 square feet of undivided right, title interest and ownership in the immovable property, the apartment constructed in the immovable property bearing Sy.No.98/1, situated at Chokkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, measuring 28 ½ guntas (converted for non agricultural residential purpose vide reference No. ALN (NAY) SR 212/2008-09 dated 31.03.2009) and bounded on East by: Land Belongs to Sri. Narasa Reddy and Sri.Ramalinga Reddy & Road, West by: Land belongs to Sri.C N Ashwath Reddy & Road, North by: Land belongs to Sri.Prasad Reddy and South by: Land belongs to Sri.C.N.Shivarama Reddy.

2. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrowers that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of State Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on **05.05.2021** for recovery of **Rs.81,70,309/-** (Rupees Eighty One Lakhs Seventy Thousand Three Hundred Nine only) as on 07.04.2021 + expenses + costs due to State Bank of India, Secured creditor from **Smt. Anjali Manaktala Rohan Talwar** W/o. Rohan Talwar and **Shri. Rohan Talwar NavinTalwar** S/o. NavinTalwar (Borrowers). The reserve price, earnest money deposit bid increment amount and last date for receipt of EMD will be as under:-

Property No.	Reserve Price (below which the property will not be sold)	Earnest Money Deposit	Bid increment amount	Last date for receipt of EMD
1.	Rs.51,00,000/-	Rs.5,10,000/-	Rs.10,000/-	03.05.2021

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Tender No: SBI/RACPC-III/EA/02/2021-2022
Title deed holders : Smt. Anjali Manaktala Rohan Talwar and Shri. Rohan Talwar Navin Talwar

All that piece and parcel of Apartment bearing No. S-04 in the second floor having a total super built up area of 1687 sq feet, along with one covered car parking of the multistoried apartment known as "SaiKrupa Vestaa Homes", inclusive of proportionate share in common area such as passage, lobbies, stair case, set-back area and other areas of common use with concealed wiring, vitrified flooring having amenities, Property ID No. 150200402300120343 with undivided share of land measuring about 363 sq feet with flat bounded on East by: Entrance, West by: OTS, North by: OTS and South by: OTS, the Apartment building constructed on the portion of the property bearing Sy. No. 16/2, measuring 7 ¾ (seven and three quarters) guntas of land, conversion order bearing No. ALN (EVH)SR289/2008-09, dated: 06.03.2009, situated at Halanayakanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk (previously called as Bengaluru South Taluk) and bounded on East by: Remaining portion of the same survey no. 16/2, West by: Road and Maruthi Garden Layout, North by: 20 feet Road formed in the same Sy. No. 16/2 and South by: Private property.

To the best of knowledge of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any of the above said property. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in www.sbi.co.in i.e., https://bankeauctions.com

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
State Bank of India, RACPC-III,
Banaswadi, Bengaluru

Date: 16.04.2021
Place: Bengaluru

QuoteExpress IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING › WINSTON CHURCHILL

The district administrations of Chittoor and Nellore in Andhra have made all arrangements for the by-election to the Tirupati Lok Sabha seat on Saturday. There will be a three-cornered fight between YSRC, TDP and BJP-JSP combine as they have taken the bypoll as a prestigious one

Many queue up in scorching heat; most fear shortage of vaccines as their wait would go in vain

BIG CROWDS, LONG WAIT FOR VAX IN TN

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai/Coimbatore/Salem/Erode

THOUSANDS of anxious people gathered in long queues across the State on Friday, hoping to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. Most of them feared a shortage of vaccines would mean their wait was in vain.

At Chennai's Omandurar Hospital alone, more than 1,000 people gathered under the scorching sun, hoping to receive a token at least. But not all were that lucky. Among those who did receive tokens too, was much discontent.

"I arrived at 10 am, and got token number 598. Now, at 3 pm, only 250 people have been vaccinated. I don't even know if I'll get the shot today," complained a 66-year-old man who arrived from T Nagar. He came to the hospital as he heard it was the only place where Covaxin was being administered.

About the same time, another man in line, a 49-year-old from KK Nagar, pointed out that he hadn't eaten lunch yet. "I arrived at 11 am and got token number 601," he explained.

People wait to get vaccinated in Chennai on Friday. Due to shortage of vaccines, many were asked to come on Saturday | EXPRESS

At least 20 people told Express they came to Omandurar Hospital because it offered Covaxin, and others said they visited the facility because it was popular and their family doctors recommended it.

Of the at-least 700 people who received tokens at Omandurar, many were told to return the next day. Similar crowds were witnessed at the RGGGH and Stanley Hospital in Chennai, even to receive OP (out patient) tokens. People said they visited tertiary hospitals as they didn't know if the Corporation centres were offering free vaccines in their localities.

In Coimbatore, the district administration received 10,000 doses (1,000 vials) of Covishield on Friday, but health department sources expressed doubt over whether it would suffice until the next batch arrives, since 8,000-11,000 people are being vaccinated daily. The district is set to receive a fresh consignment of vaccines by Monday, sources said, though officials said they didn't know when it would arrive.

Shortage of vaccine: Lakhs miss second dose

DONITA JOSE @ Hyderabad

THE state's vaccination drive against Covid-19 is taking a hit due to the uncertainty in the availability of doses. In the last one week, lakhs of individuals who were due for their second dose of Covid-19 vaccine were turned back citing lack of availability of vaccine. Several people complained that even after booking their slots for second shots several times, they were being cancelled.

"The first dose to my Mother was given in March first week and eventually government recommended to delay the second dose by 6 to 8 weeks. Now we are entering the 8th week, and now every time we book on Cowin, the appointment is cancelled automatically asking us to reschedule. We enquired with the local PHC and they inform us that Covishield Vaccine is not in stock for a week and may be for another few days. What do we do now?," asked Achyuth Jagirdar, a resident.

"We are worried because we are unnecessarily getting exposed to the hospital repeatedly. I have been forced to bring my 80-year-old mother nearly three times," said another resident from Ameerpet.

Odisha asks Centre for more vaccines

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government has once again urged the Union Health Ministry to supply adequate quantities of vaccine as the State has been facing an acute shortage for more than a week now. The vaccination drive on Friday was badly hit as only 781 sites of the 1,476 were open for inoculation in 29 districts. Koraput district saw no vaccination at all on Friday due to unavailability. Health officials said Odisha required more doses of Covishield as the vaccine has been approved for the entire state, except Bhubaneswar. **ENS**

Jagan sends missive to PM, seeks 60L doses

Vijayawada: Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to supply 60 lakh doses of Covid vaccine to the state for administering the same to all the vulnerable people aged above 45 in the next three weeks. In a letter to the Prime Minister, Jagan drew the attention of the former to the fact that the State has run out of vaccine stocks. At the same time, he thanked Modi for responding to his earlier letter and sending 6.4 lakh vaccine doses last Tuesday. **ENS**

The muzzle-loader, like the one recovered, is preferred for hunting

Illegal firearms in Kudremukh area worry cops

MEERA BHARDWAJ @ Bengaluru

THE rampant use of illegal and licensed weapons for hunting wildlife has become a major headache for both the police and the forest department in the Malnad region. Even as seizures and arrests continue in areas around national parks and sanctuaries, 8-10 cases have been registered by the police in Chikkamagaluru district alone and illegal arms recovered from hunters.

In a recent incident, the Kudremukh police stumbled upon a person with firearms which was being used for wildlife hunting. However, the offender managed to escape. Lakshman, son of Alagaiah, was chased by the police when he was found hunting near S K Meglan Koonekudge village. The police team seized a muzzle-loader gun and also recovered other materials used for hunting. A case was registered at Kudremukh police station under the Indian Arms Act.

According to police sources, the use of illegal arms for hunting is widespread in the Western Ghat districts. This is a sensitive district as, in the past decade, as many as 13-15 Naxals have surrendered and laid down arms before the Chikkamagaluru district police. A police official said, "We need to recover such country-made illegal arms and ammunition. The easy availability of such guns has not only increased wildlife hunting, but also given a fillip to criminal activity."

The Kudremukh National Park authorities are having a tough time dealing with such illegal activities in the surrounding areas. According to G Veeresh, Chikkamagaluru honorary wildlife warden, in the Western Ghat-bound Malnad areas, such locally made muzzle-loading guns are specially used for wildlife hunting. "They use traditional methods for making them — gun powder, metal balls, blades, wires, nails, etc. Under the Indian Arms Act, this is illegal and authorities should seize all illegal and unlicensed firearms."

Local activists further add that these easily available cheap guns are a boon for hunters and hunting groups from Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Hyderabad, etc., and hence, there is an urgent need for the Forest Department to hire and deploy more frontline forest staff for protection of Kudremukh National Park.

Venkatesh, an ex-army commander, pointed out that the most commonly used firearm in the southern states and the North-East is the muzzle-loader. They are made of a galvanized iron pipes or sometimes even made out of the steering rods of vehicles like jeeps. As far as ammunition is concerned, sometimes, roughly made lead balls are used with a heavy coat of gunpowder, while other hunters use six-inch bits of iron rod projectiles.

'Sisters didn't interact much with anyone'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ALL that the police investigation team are now left with are food samples collected from the residence and statements from the younger sister Prema and other family members, to probe whether there was any foul play or whether they had committed suicide. "We have recorded the statements of their sister Prema and other family members," the police officer added.

Now the only possible lead that the investigators could get is when the forensic experts confirm whether the food samples from the house were poisoned or not, and if poisoned, whether they did it themselves or someone else did it to kill them. If not poisoned, their deaths are likely to remain a mystery.

Relatives and neighbours of the deceased siblings have said that the duo would not interact with anyone. Raani had psychological issues and was under treatment from NIMHANS doctors since a few years.

Rare lunar occultation of Mars today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Udupi

A rare sight awaits astro-enthusiasts on Saturday when the crescent moon comes directly between Earth and Mars, leading to a rare occultation. Around 5 pm, sky gazers can notice a tiny shining dot — Mars, very close to the Moon. Within minutes, Mars will disappear , with the Moon hiding it. This lunar occultation of Mars will be visible in India only, informed Atul Bhat, coordinator of Poornaprajna Amateur Astronomers' Club, Udupi on Friday.

Bhat said that in this occultation, the moon shall cover Mars completely for an hour and a half. ''Each month, the Moon passes very close to Mars with only a few degrees of space between the two as viewed from earth. As we see the pair from earth, this space between them varies from place to place. During certain lunar conjunctions with mars, depending upon where one observes this from, the Moon will appear to pass in front of Mars and cause an eclipse of Mars, which is called 'Lunar Occultation of Mars'.

In the past few months, such occultations have occurred, but were visible only from certain parts of Earth. With the previous lunar occultation visible from Africa and South America respectively, Saturday's lunar occultation will be visible from across the country, Atul Bhat added.

"It will appear as if Mars has vanished from the sky around 5.08 pm at Udupi and Dakshina Kannada. As the sun sets and darkness arrives, around 6.55 pm, the red planet - Mars will reappear from the bright side of the moon, completing the occultation," Bhat added.

File pic of the rare lunar occultation of Mars that will be visible only in India on Saturday from 5 pm. The phenomenon will take place for an hour and half

OLYMPIAN FOOTBALLER SUCCUMBS TO COVID-19

Bengaluru: City-based footballer Ahmed Hussain (85), who played for the country's football team in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics and numerous international tournaments, died from Covid-19 on Friday. An NGO, Mercy Angels, helped in performing his last rites at the Shantinagar Khabrastan. According to a representative of the NGO, Hussain breathed his last at Trinity Central Hospital in Seshadripuram at 9.30 am. Hussain played for most of the clubs in Kolkata and Hyderabad. He later donned the role of a coach at some of them. After his stint as a player, he was the National Technical Director, wherein he nurtured many talented footballers. He also served as the coach of coaches at the Netaji Subash Chandra National Institute of Sports at Patiala. **ENS**

TRANSPORT STRIKE

Hit by stone, NWKRTC driver dies

MAHESH M GOUDAR @Bagalkot

BLOOD was shed for the first time ever since the bus strike began in the State as a 59-year-old bus driver of North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) allegedly died after unknown miscreants threw stones at the moving vehicle.

Nabirasool Avati, a resident of Avati Nagar of Jamkhandi town, was attacked when he was driving the bus back to Jamkhandi from Vijayapura in the afternoon. The stones pierced the windshield and hit Avati on his head and neck. He parked the bus by the side of the road, before fainting in his seat.

Frantic passengers called for an ambulance, but it didn't help as he had suffered severe injuries to his head and died on his way to hospital, claimed sources. He is survived by his wife and four children.

According to sources, "Avati was attacked by one of the employees of NWKRTC to stop him from continuing to report to work, with the ongoing protest."

Shahirabanu, wife of Avati, held the depot manager of Jamkhandi responsible for her husband's death. "My husband had stayed away from work from the first day of the protest. But the depot manager pestered my husband, forcing him to report to work," she said.

A complaint was lodged at Savalagi police station.

SP Lokesh Jagalasar said, "The family members have filed a complaint against unknown miscreants. We have formed multiple teams to nab them. It is too early to comment on the attack and investigation is going on. This attack is not done by the public." Avati was a recipient of the Chief Minister's medal twice in his over three-decade long career in NWKRTC.

Meanwhile, Transport Minister Laxman Savadi announced that the next of the kin of the deceased will be given a compensation of Rs 30 lakh and a job for a family member in the corporation. "The government will show no mercy against those who take the law into their hands," he said while reiterating that soon after model code of conduct is lifted, the government will revise the wages of all those who come to back to duty.

Students heading back home by train in Bengaluru on Friday I MEGHANA SASTRY

Gold worth over ₹1 crore seized at KIA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A total of 2.32 kgs of gold was seized from air passengers coming from Gulf countries to Bengaluru in five different incidents in the last two days. They concealed them in different body parts and the total value of the seizure comes to ₹1.03 crore. The Air Intelligence unit of Kempegowda International Airport made the seizures.

The biggest seizure of ₹883.8 grams was made from two female passengers who reached the city by an Air India flight from Dubai on April 14. "Both had concealed three gold chains inside their blouses and gold paste in their rectum and stomach. The value of items recovered from them was worth ₹42.07 lakh. The duo hailed from Tiruchirapalli in Tamil Nadu. In another incident, a male pasenger from the same district in Tamil Nadu was involved. Three crude gold chains were recovered from his inner wear and 4 I-phone 12 Pro phones from his hand bag. The total value of items seized came to ₹19.42 lakh.

On Thursday, a male passenger from Madhya Pradesh had concealed 456 grams of gold worth ₹21.39 lakh while a flyer from Thajavur had concealed 347 grams of gold worth ₹16.26 lakh. In another incident on Friday (April 16), a passenger from Virudhunagar was held for wearing rhodium coated gold jewellery weighing 283 grams and valued at Rs 13.37 lakh.

EXPRESS READ

Bengaluru training camp for NSO survey starts

Bengaluru: The regional training camp for the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) of the National Statistical Office commenced in Bengaluru on Thursday. This is part of the nationwide ASUSE. The objective is to obtain reliable and comprehensive data for unincorporated sector enterprises which are essential for planning and policy formulations. **ENS**

Gold smuggling case: Kerala HC quashes FIRs against ED

Kochi: In a major setback to the LDF government, the High Court on Friday quashed two FIRs by the state Crime Branch against 'unnamed officers' of Enforcement Directorate. They were registered based on the revelation by Swapna Suresh and Sandeep Nair that the officers had forced them to give false statement against CM Pinarayi Vijayan and other higher-ups in the government. **ENS**

KIDS AT WORK

Labour shortage triggers surge in child workers being brought to B'luru

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE Railway Police and NGOs working for the welfare of children have reported a surge in the number of children being brought to Bengaluru to work as labourers in different factories. The reason: A good chunk of the labour force which left after the first Covid wave last year never returned and it is now being replaced by this young workforce.

With a number of inter-city, inter-state trains and buses being restored, many children are being brought to the City to be turned into labourers, said a top cop of the Railway Protection Force (RPF). "From January to March this year, 52 children who were being trafficked for labour were rescued from trains and platforms by Nanhe Farishtey, the anti-child trafficking unit of RPF. A new trend is that even girl children are being brought as additional hands to meet the labour demand. They were earlier trafficked mainly for flesh trade."

Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Sonykutty George, told The New Indian Express, "In the last week alone, we rescued 25 children from the KSR Railway Station and Kempegowda bus station. They are now kept at a centre in Madiwala and placed under quarantine to ensure they are corona free."

He said that an average of 90 to 100 children were being brought into the City every month. "When you consider the limited public transport available, this is a matter of much concern. It is only rising and is set to become dangerous," he added. Most of them are rural children. "The closure of schools and their inability to study online coupled with financial pressure on parents is pushing many children into the workforce," he said.

Data from Nanhe Farishtey, which has rescued 3,023 children across railway stations and trains over the last two years, reveals that 52 per cent of the children were brought from different parts of Karnataka. Among other top states from where child labourers reached the City were Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand and North-Eastern states. "Some are being voluntarily sent by parents who have no clue about the hardships the children would endure, while some are being brought in by relatives or those specialising in trafficking," the police officer explained.

EDITORIAL

"Craving leads to even more craving. There is no contentment, no limit

Sayadaw U Pandita

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

RBI & IMPACT OF EXPANDING MONEY SUPPLY ON INFLATION

It's a testy beginning for the RBI. In its first bi-monthly monetary policy review last week, the central bank for the first time announced a new ₹1 lakh crore Government Securities Acquisition Plan (G-SAP). This, it said, was 'committing the balance sheet' for the quarter unlike the practice of keeping its cards close to its chest. But the RBI seems to have somewhat failed in its first attempt of managing the 10-year yield on G-Securities. Yields rose above 6.1% on Friday after the first phase of the G-SAP auction worth ₹25,000 crore across five different maturities concluded on Thursday. That's because traders expected the RBI to be a bit more aggressive in buying bonds. Besides, WPI inflation touching an eight-year high of 7.39% on rising crude oil and metal prices warranting tightening of interest rates spooked investors.

G-SAP was expected to flatten the yield curve, reduce the government's borrowing costs and ensure markets remain conducive for the large borrowing programme. The Centre is set to borrow ₹12.03 lakh crore in FY22 and if you add states, total borrowings will touch ₹20 lakh crore. This incoming excess supply was upsetting bond prices lower and pushing yields higher. The RBI wanted to enable an orderly evolution of the yield curve and ensure congenial financial conditions for economic recovery to gain traction. In essence, the aim of G-SAP was not to infuse liquidity, but to create demand for the government paper, keeping costs low.

But higher money supply devalues the currency and predictably, the rupee slipped below the 75 level against the US dollar, becoming Asia's worst performing currency so far this month. On the day of the G-SAP announcement, the rupee declined 105 paise—the worst single day fall since 5 August 2019. But some believe the depreciation was due to the relative increase in the dollar's strength. Still, the RBI needs to keep in mind the impact of expanding money supply on inflation, which is firming up. Moreover, none can rule out volatility in bond markets considering global cues and rising commodity prices.

ANDHRA AND THE SECOND COVID WAVE

The Andhra Pradesh government has ruled out a lockdown as it gears up to face the second wave of the Covid pandemic that is spreading fast in the state. The current situation doesn't call for a lockdown but it surely demands extreme caution—something that has been thrown to the winds by politicians and the public alike. None bothered about Covid norms whether it was during the campaign for the Tirupati Lok Sabha bypoll, slated to be held Saturday, or the Ugadi celebrations in Kurnool district or for that matter, during the local elections last month.

No wonder the positivity rate is increasing by the day. Currently, it stands at 6.08% with the state recording 6,096 cases, its highest one-day spike in six months, on Friday. The number of active cases is at a manageable 35,592 as is the mortality rate of 0.78%. However, the state, which was aggressive in testing, tracing and treating last year, needs to ramp up the same now. The number of samples tested was just around 36,000 on Friday. The vaccination drive, on the other hand, was conducted admirably by administering 6.2 lakh doses on a single day, but the problem is the state has run out of stocks while even frontline workers are yet to be completely covered. The onus is on the Centre to supply states with adequate stocks at this critical hour. Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy to his credit cancelled his public meeting in Tirupati but he now needs to galvanise the state apparatus to contain the virus spread for which steps must be taken to not only put in place the requisite infrastructure to deal with a further surge in cases but also ensure strict enforcement of Covid norms.

What is inexplicable is the government's intention to go ahead with Intermediate examinations as per schedule. Class 10 exams are almost a couple of months away but the Inter exams are scheduled to begin in the first week of May. It makes eminent sense to defer if not cancel the exams and follow in the footsteps of neighbouring Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

The economy has come to a grinding halt after the coup, this in the midst of Covid. Myanmar seems headed for an unprecedented humanitarian crisis of hunger and disease

THE QUAGMIRE MYANMAR IS CAUGHT IN

AMIT BANDRE

PRADIP PHANJOUBAM
Editor, Imphal Review of Arts and Politics

Signs are Myanmar's troubles are deeper than apparent. A brief to the UN Security Council on April 9 by a Myanmar expert affiliated to the reputed non-profit Crisis Group summed this up saying the February 1 coup is still not a fait accompli and the new administration is far from being in control. This also means the international community still has no central authority to deal with in Myanmar yet. Reports indicate even China, which was always very clear it would make a strategic alliance with whoever forms a stable government in Myanmar, is now also reaching out to the National League of Democracy-led Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, though without condemning the junta, in an apparent effort to keep its options open.

Unlike in earlier civil unrests, the biggest of which was in 1988, Myanmar's current younger generation, who have had a taste of democracy, are not ready for compromises despite extreme repression by the junta. Though out of view for now, the speculation is that a collapse of the nation's economy is imminent, which as of now has been brought to a grinding halt, all this in the midst of a pandemic. The country does seem headed for an unprecedented humanitarian crisis of hunger and disease.

On the other hand, the country's deep fissures on ethnic lines seem a little healed, as there appears to be a sense of solidarity amongst the nation's disparate ethnic minorities against their common bitter adversary—the military. The majority Bamars too, prompted by shared distress, are tending towards this alliance and some opinion writers have suggested this has added to the desperation of the junta. However, there are others who doubt the lasting stability of this alliance, saying it would be as daunting as herding cats into a disciplined fold.

Yet another school of thought believes that should the ethnic armies get too assertive and the integrity of the Union come under strain, the Bamar population may quieten down to reluctantly allow the junta to play custodian. This is also what writer Shelby Tucker reasoned had happened in the first of Myanmar's military coups in 1962 in his book "Burma, The Curse of Independence". That military coup proved more than an emergency measure and lasted half a century.

The current emergency may last longer too. The country's 2008 constitution has a provision for an extension of one more year of such an emergency, six months at a time, but there is no guarantee the junta will abdicate power even after that. For now it seems the moment it allows democracy's return, it will be out of power, and power is what it thirsts for. This should explain the February coup better. The pretext was a trumped-up charge of election fraud, but an underlying insecurity that this election may become the obituary for the military's hope of perpetuating its commanding position in Myanmar's state power structure was more likely the trigger.

The military designed the 2008 constitution with this hope in mind, reserving 25% of seats for itself in the bicameral Union Assembly (Pyidaungsu Hlutaw), consisting of a 440-seat Lower House Pyithu Hluttaw and a 224-seat Upper House Amyotha Hluttaw. The 14 subnational legislatures (State Hluttaw) are then made surrogates of the party in power at the Union. Moreover, key portfolios of home, border affairs and defence also are reserved for serving military officers.

> On the other hand, Myanmar's deep fissures on ethnic lines seem a little healed for now, as there appears to be solidarity amongst the country's disparate ethnic minorities against their common bitter adversary—the military

With this 25% seats head start, the military brass probably presumed that with its proxies in the civil space, the army would always be at the helm of all future governments. The 2015 election shook up this myth, with the NLD winning a landslide victory in the seats open for competition.

Though disappointed, the military leaders would have continued to pin their hopes that the euphoria of democratisation after five decades of military rule, as well the sheen provided by Aung San Suu Kyi to her winning party, would wane, and the next election would reflect the true mood of the nation. Indeed, in the run-up to the November 2020 elections, most predictions agreed with this assessment. The belief was that there was considerable disenchantment with the NLD government everywhere. In Rakhine and Shan states, this disillusionment was even greater, for the NLD bulldozed its way using a provision in the 2008 constitution that empowered the party in power at the Union to form governments in states even if it did not win a majority in these local arenas.

The speculation was, even with a dented base, the NLD would still emerge as the single largest party, but would have to bargain and partner with the ethnic parties to form the next government. Belying all these forecasts, the NLD swept the polls again with a margin even bigger than in 2015. The NLD made inroads even in the ethnic states.

This was the military's nightmare. Its insecurity would also be that Suu Kyi, emboldened by this victory, may try to amend the 2008 constitution to marginalise the military, though this would have been difficult under the 2008 constitution that made the support of 75% legislators of the Union Assembly, 25% of whom are military by reservation, essential for any amendment.

The military probably calculated that once in power for a period, people would gravitate towards them out of necessity, eventually making a return to democracy safer for them, but this is proving illusory. This is the quagmire Myanmar is caught in today and there seems to be no easy way out. The picture is even more grim particularly because world powers are more eager to see Myanmar as a new battlefield of an emerging Cold War, with China and the US on opposite ends, than to think of a humanitarian response.

(phanjoubam@gmail.com)

BIDEN AND TRUMP ON THE SAME AFGHAN PAGE

NEENA GOPAL
Senior journalist and expert on South Asia

US President Joe Biden's announcement that he is pulling out every one of the 2,200 American troops from Afghanistan by September 11—on the 20th anniversary of the World Trade Centre bombings—may have set off a storm of criticism in Washington, with South Asia expert Christine Fair's biting tweet "ISI wins, Afghans lose" being the most telling epitaph of America's longest war.

Ms Fair is referring to the elephant in the room—Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence and the Pakistani army, demonstrably adept at playing the US off against new mentor Russia and debt-trapper China, and controlling the Taliban mullahs based in the Balochistan capital, Quetta, which now believes that with the US in retreat, it is poised to reclaim the Kabul that it lost in 2001.

Biden's September withdrawal plan that scraps his predecessor Donald Trump's timeline of May 1 much to the chagrin of the Taliban, which had agreed to a cessation of hostilities in the landmark February 2020 agreement, is a marked shift of priorities.

It gives primacy, not to the policing of Afghanistan, but to the new challenge to American power posed by a rising China and Russia in the Indo-Pacific and Europe.

US Special Peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad has been all but tasked with handing Afghanistan to his newfound Taliban protégés, with whom he has built a strong relationship, being the prime mover behind prying a section of the Taliban out of Pakistan's clutches, finding them a new headquarters in the Qatari capital of Doha while helping them build international legitimacy in world capitals.

Khalilzad must quiet the Taliban's mistrust of Biden and bring them back to the negotiating table at the forthcoming Istanbul conference on April 24, where they have been promised a bigger say in an interim arrangement; albeit once Afghan president Ashraf Ghani is eased out the door. Simultaneously, he is dangling the carrot of restoring billions of dollars in security assistance to Pakistan if it continues to play good cop with the Taliban. US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken's confabulations with Pakistani Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa are no accidents. Neither are the sudden protests by Pakistan based Tehreek-Labbaik-Pakistan. The TLP, a lever, a pressure tactic to keep Pakistan in line.

As Biden goes where even Trump hasn't gone before, the disquiet in Washington's security circles is understandable. Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell has called it "a grave mistake", a "retreat in the face of an enemy that has not yet been vanquished … abandoning our partners and retreating in the face of the Taliban".

The 'Exit Afghanistan' strategy, first aired by former President Barack Obama in 2009, repackaged by his successor Donald Trump in 2019, has not just been years in the making, but is 10 years too late.

The original provocation for US troops being air-dropped into Afghanistan on 7 October 2001 as part of Operation Enduring Freedom was to hunt down Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden to his refuge in Afghanistan after he brazenly claimed responsibility for the hijacking of four commercial airliners that crashed into the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in New York and Washington on 11 September 2001. Of the 19 hijackers led by Egyptian Mohammed Atta, nary a one was Afghan.

> With the US in retreat, Pakistan believes it is poised to reclaim the Kabul it lost in 2001.... For India, which saw Al Qaeda draw educated young Muslims from Kerala into the terror mesh, it may be time to rethink its strategy on Pakistan, shed its antipathy to the Taliban and work with Khalilzad, the man it loves to hate

And if the provocation for sending troops into Afghanistan was to smoke bin Laden out of his hideout after Taliban leader Mullah Omar refused to hand over his 'guest', why did President George W Bush's forces not pursue the Al Qaeda leader as he made his escape from the Tora Bora mountain caves into Pakistan? It was left to a handful of low-level Afghan commanders to corral his close associates. Bin Laden escaped on horseback.

Again, from 2006, as Taliban insurgents, given a new lease of life by Islamabad's 'deep state', stepped up attacks on the US-NATO forces along its contiguous borders with Pakistan, why did American forces desist from crossing the border to attack their safe havens in that nation? They didn't hold back when they tracked down bin Laden to the Pakistan garrison town of Abbottabad. And yet, they did not pull out of Afghanistan once they were done with the killing of bin Laden on 1 May 2011.

In retrospect, the flaws inherent in America's Afghanistan strategy were glaring from the start. What began as a plan to crush Al Qaeda and run the Taliban out of the country turned into Bush's wholly impractical Marshall Plan to rebuild Afghanistan. The appeal of Western style parliament and polls, limited to Afghan émigrés returning home in their thousands, and to the young, educated middle class, particularly women, who revelled in the end of the arcane misogyny of Taliban misrule that kept young girls out of schools and the workplace, didn't cut any ice beyond the cities. Successive US presidents vacillated on troop reductions and troop upsurges, helping the Taliban stoke anger in the countryside against the presence of foreign troops. The reality on the ground is complicated by the Taliban's refusal to disavow links to Al Qaeda, Daesh and ISIS-Khorasan.

It is this back story that must inform Biden's new exit plan. For India, which saw Al Qaeda draw educated young Muslims from Kerala into the terror mesh, with a doctor being named as the main suicide bomber at the Sikh Gurudwara bombing in Kabul last year, it may be time to rethink its strategy on Pakistan, shed its antipathy to the Taliban and work with Khalilzad, the man Delhi loves to hate, in crafting a blueprint for an Afghanistan that can transition to a self-sustaining government.

The 20-year-long US presence in Afghanistan may have been flawed from the get go. But despite the unsettling parallels to the Soviet withdrawal, India and the world would greatly benefit if the exit does not open the doors to another 'Caliphate of Terror'.

(The author has written the book 'The assassination of Rajiv Gandhi')
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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Road show not a good idea

In the midst of the highest single-day spike of over 6,000 cases and 24 deaths in West Bengal, CM Mamata Banerjee should not have conducted a road show in Kolkata. The Election Commission should have restricted the crowd.
P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Superspreader events

Religious congregations and political campaigning crowds are superspreader events of the virus. While most parties are silent about this bitter truth, it is laudable that Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury wrote to the EC asking it to enforce Covid norms on the crowds in political rallies.
K Jayanthi, Chennai

Mela despite rising cases

The report that 30 sadhus have tested positive for Covid amidst the ongoing Kumbh Mela in Haridwar is distressing. Despite the upsurge in cases, the claim by authorities that the mela will continue till April 30 is indeed dismaying.
Thomas K M, Muvattupuzha

Big crowds unchecked

The same time last year, there was a hue and cry over the Tablighi Jamaat gathering for being a superspreader event. Yet, one year later, we are facing a second bigger wave, but events like political rallies and religious congregations are running unchecked.
Shruthi Nagarajan, Hyderabad

No more polls please

This is with reference to *Onus on EC to impose Covid discipline at poll rallies* (Apr 16). The least the EC could do is not conduct any more elections after the current set of polls are over on April 29 till the pandemic is brought under control.
Hemanth D Pai, Bengaluru

Can't just halt activities

We will have to coexist with different viruses including Covid. Many national activities cannot be halted indefinitely. They must be taken forward with meticulous planning. Thus, the EC must devise appropriate safety norms and implement them strictly.
A M Chakravarty, Hyderabad

Improve healthcare sector

This is with reference to *Quacks and the lack of quality healthcare* (Apr 16). The article is an eye-opener on the need for better healthcare infrastructure and quality medical practitioners. The government should concentrate on improving the healthcare sector.
R Pichumani, Kumbakonam

Physician assistants?

Nations like the US, UK, etc., have physician assistants trained to prescribe medicine under supervision. Thus, the outright dismissal of any endeavour to create healthcare personnel outside medical colleges must be reviewed.
M K Chattopadhyay, Hyderabad

Unravelling the mystery

The Supreme Court's direction to the CBI to probe the police personnel who framed renowned scientist Nambi Narayanan should unravel the mystery behind the case. The question of a larger conspiracy involving the halting of India's research on cryogenic engines should also be addressed.
C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Probe Kerala govt role

It is time the officers who conspired against Nambi Narayanan are brought to book. But none of this could have happened without the active support of some in the then Congress government in Kerala.
Harsha Biliangady, Bengaluru

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Alka Lamba @LambaAlka
What is Modi ji's fault in this? He told scientists to extract oxygen from air, but they are failing. If successful, there would be no oxygen shortage in hospital #Covid

Yashwant Sinha @YashwantSinha
Covid is surging. There are no beds in hospitals, no oxygen, no medicines, no care. People are dying like flies. Modi hai to mumkin hai

Priyanka Chaturvedi @priyankac19
As far as Maharashtra is concerned, we have conducted the highest number of tests. We have also been ensuring transparency of data

VACCINE DOSES

TOTAL
11,70,96,037

IN 24 HOURS
27,30,359

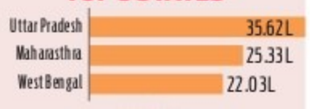
TOP BENEFICIARIES

STATES	DOSES
MAHARASHTRA	1,15,12,728
RAJASTHAN	1,03,60,331
UTTAR PRADESH	1,02,73,996
GUJARAT	1,00,28,842
WEST BENGAL	84,68,838
MADHYA PRADESH	70,58,738
KARNATAKA	67,05,031
KERALA	54,97,016
BIHAR	53,56,134
CHHATTISGARH	46,80,586

DOSES AVAILABLE

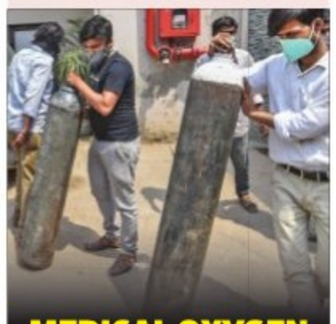
TOTAL
2.67 crore

TOP 3 STATES



59.63%
Of total doses administered in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, UP, Gujarat, West Bengal, MP, Karnataka and Kerala

(Data till April 16, till 7pm)



MEDICAL OXYGEN

7,287MTs
Daily oxygen production capacity

50,000MTs
Stock available

3,842MTs
Daily consumption

Source: Health Ministry

Vaccinations at 12cr-mark in India

New Delhi: The total number of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country approached the 12 crore-mark on Friday with more than 26.14 lakh doses being given till 8 pm, the Union Health Ministry said on Friday. A total of 66,689 Covid Vaccination Centres (CVCs) were operational, marking a rise of an average of 21,689 operational centres (45,000 CVCs on an average are functional).

PUNE STATUS

TOTAL CASES	6,89,274
FRESH CASES	5,437
TOTAL DEATHS	8,695
RECOVERED	5,67,602
ACTIVE CASES	54,351
MORTALITY RATE	1.7%
TOTAL TESTS	18,08,593
DAILY TESTS	21,922
TOTAL BEDS	9,805
BEDS OCCUPIED	8,895

63,729
NEW CASES IN MAHARASHTRA

A HCW takes swab sample from a passenger at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai | PTI

Pune turns Maharashtra Covid hub

Of 6.20 lakh active cases, 1.12 lakh reported from Pune alone; faces Remdesivir shortage

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE cultural capital of Maharashtra has become the epicentre of Covid-19 in the state. Of the 6.20 lakh active cases in Maharashtra, 1.12 lakh are reported from Pune alone.

According to the Maharashtra government's health department data, 36,39,855 have tested positive in the state till date. Of this, 6,89,274 are from Pune. Of them, 5,67,602 patients have recovered, while 8,695 died. Pune district includes Pune city, Pimpri Chinchwad and rural areas like the automobile and industrial belts of Talegaon, Chakan and Pradhikaran. After Pune, Mumbai is second highest with 84,743 active positive cases. This figure is 83,193 in Thane, 69,365 in Nagpur and 47,117 in Nasik.

According to the Pune Municipal Corporation, there are 54,351 active positive cases in Pune city, while daily positive rate is around 24.61 per cent. Mortality rate is 1.7 per cent.

Of the 5,540 Covid-19 beds in various Pune hospitals, 5,481 are occupied. Of the 1,843 beds with oxygen, 1,630 are occupied. Occupancy is almost 100 per cent for beds with ventilators (606 of 610) and ICUs (557 of 562). In Pune, most of the cases are reported from upmarket areas like Kothrud, Aundh, Hadapsar, Shivaji Nagar and Warje. The doubling rate is 43.91 days.

Pune Divisional Commissioner Saurabh Rao has requested Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to spare 20,000 vials of Remdesivir from its stock of two lakh. According to Rao, they are not able to procure the drug due to shortage in the market. He has written to the Municipal Commissioner about the increasing demand. "Recently, I came to know that BMC has successfully placed an order for Remdesivir with MYLAN. We contacted the same company from which the BMC bought 2 lakh vials at ₹1,568 each, but they expressed inability, citing lack of stock," wrote Rao.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar has also said that in the second wave, more positive cases are reported from Pune. He asked people to cooperate with the government to break the virus chain. Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, also the guardian minister of Pune, called a series of meetings and urged people to follow protocol.

"After the Maharashtra government's decision to relax restrictions after the first wave, people in Pune district started moving around in large numbers because of industrial activities. Many positive cases are reported in upmarket areas, which shows that people are careless and causal. The government is working on a war footing," said a senior health officer from Pune.

VIRUS IMPACT

States continue to announce measures to tackle the resurgence of Covid-19. A quick look at the decisions taken on Friday...

DELHI
Metro services to be available with headway of 15 min across the whole network on the weekend

CHANDIGARH
Weekend curfew from Friday 10 pm to Monday 5 am. NDA and other exams won't be affected

PUNJAB
All college exams deferred in the state. Gathering in marriages and funerals restricted to 20 people in SAS Nagar

MAHARASHTRA
People flouting curbs to be tested for Covid in Aurangabad

KARNATAKA
Religious events banned; for marriages, political event, 200 people permitted in open space, 100 in closed; for other celebrations, 50 people allowed in open spaces, 25 in closed; for cremations/burials, the limit is 25

UTTAR PRADESH
Iconic Bada Imambara, other monuments in Lucknow closed. No more than 5 people to assemble at 1 place in upcoming phases of panchayat polls

MANIPUR
Covid negative report mandatory for people entering the state

WEST BENGAL
EC bans rallies, public meetings from 7 pm to 10 am. Science City in Kolkata to remain closed till May 15

ODISHA
All exams colleges under state govt to be suspended from April 19

10 STATES ACCOUNT FOR 79.10% OF NEW INFECTIONS: Maharashtra, UP, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, MP, Gujarat, Kerala, TN, Bengal

Of the country's total active case are from Maharashtra

HIGHEST DAILY CASES

1,18,302 **RECOVERIES IN LAST 24 HOURS**

Of India's total new cases are from Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, UP, Karnataka and Kerala

10 STATES AND UTs HAVE NOT REPORTED ANY COVID-19 DEATHS IN 24 HOURS: Ladakh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh

50 seers test positive at Mahakumbh, akhada slammed for exiting mega event

VINEET UPADHYAY @ Dehradun

AT least 50 seers and saints from religious akhadas participating in the ongoing Mahakumbh in Uttarakhand's Haridwar have tested positive for the Covid-19.

Mahant Ravindra Puri, secretary of the Niranjani Akhada who had announced in Haridwar on Thursday that the Kumbh Mela was over for them, is among those who have caught the virus. Seers of other akhadas in Haridwar, however, on Friday demanded an apology from the Niranjani Akhada for the announcement, saying it did not have the right to do so. Nirvani Akhada president Mahant Dharmdas said only the mela officer or the CM has the right to announce the "end of the Kumbh Mela".

Swami Avimukteshwaranand, a disciple of Shankaracharya Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati, said: "There is no question of the Kumbh ending before the decided date (April 30). The Mahakumbh is not something that you pull out of your pocket and then put back as you like. This event is based on astrological calculations. Covid behaviour will be followed while the Kumbh goes on."

Over 2,800 people have tested positive for Covid-19 at Mahakumbh so far | EXPRESS

President of the Nirmohi Akhada Rajendra Das has warned that the akhada will break away from the Akhada Parishad. "Any announcement of concluding the Mahakumbh before the scheduled date is unacceptable. Those saying such things are the ones responsible for spreading the virus the most," added Das.

More than 2,800 people have tested positive for the Covid-19 at the event since it started. Officials in charge of the mela area said more than 1.20 lakh tests have been conducted at mela area to date.

On Friday, Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat held a review meeting on the Covid-19 situation in the state where he directed the officials to ramp up testing. The state recorded 2,402 fresh Covid cases in the past 24 hours.

Mahamandaleshwar of Maha Nirwani Akhada from MP Swami Kapil Dev, who had tested positive, died at a private hospital here on April 13.

SAMPLES

8.7% variants found in genome sequencing

NEW DELHI: Of the over 13,614 samples of Covid-19 whose whole genomic sequencing has been carried out, 1,189 (8.77%) have tested positive for variants of concern, the Centre said on Friday. But it refrained from linking the rise in cases to the mutant pathogen.

Of the samples detected with variants of concern, 1109 have been found with the UK variant, 79 with the South African variant and one with the Brazil variant. The details have been put out amid concerns that Covid-19 with double mutation may be responsible for the aggressive spike in cases.

Criticised for delay in carrying out a thorough genomic surveillance when the second wave of the pandemic has caused havoc, the health ministry also maintained that the National Centre for Disease Control has also communicated state-specific results from time to time. It, however, also blamed states like Maharashtra, Kerala and MP for not sharing clinical data of samples being sent for genome sequencing. *ENS*

Workers unload wood at Bhadbhada crematorium in Bhopal on Friday | PTI

Patient declared dead twice by Madhya Pradesh hospital

BHOPAL: A 58-year-old suspected Covid patient was declared dead twice by the staff of a government medical college in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh, though he was alive. Gorelal Kori was admitted to Atal Bihari Medical College Hospital in a critical condition on April 12. His son Kailash Kori claimed he was told on Thursday morning by a hospital staff that his father had died, but was later informed that he was alive. "Again, around 4.30 pm, we got a call from the hospital that an emergency surgery had to be performed on my father. Around 8.30 pm, we were told that he had died and the body would be handed over on Friday morning. When we came to take the body, while other family members prepared for the cremation, we were told that my father was alive, but in a serious condition," Kailash alleged. Clearing the 'confusion', the medical college dean, Dr Sunil Nandeshwar, said, "The patient was on ventilator support when his heartbeat stopped. The on-duty nurse informed his attendant that he had died. But the doctors revived him with CPR....He is still on ventilator support." ENS

We have more experience, knowledge and understanding about the disease as compared to last year
Harsh Vardhan, Health Minister

The government is taking every necessary step to accelerate the production facilities of Remdesivir, its capacity enhancement & availability
D V Sadananda Gowda, Union Minister

The court may issue suo motu directions to make the vaccines available to all age groups and to facilitate in-situ vaccination as far as possible
Ashwani Kumar, Congress leader

102
NEW FATALITIES IN UTTAR PRADESH

PNB scam: UK govt clears Nirav Modi's extradition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE UK government on Friday cleared the extradition of Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam accused fugitive businessman Nirav Modi to India with UK Home Secretary Priti Patel signing the order.

Modi, however, has 28 days to appeal against the district court's order in a high court. Sources say the process will be a prolonged one as seen in the case of liquor baron Vijay Mallya. Modi is wanted in India for defrauding PNB and money laundering to the tune of ₹14,000 crore. The UK Westminster court had allowed the extradition plea and sent the case to the home secretary.

A UK judge in February dismissed Modi's arguments like worsening of mental health and poor conditions of Indian prison conditions. "I do not accept that Modi was involved in a legitimate business. I find no genuine transactions and believe there is a process of dishonesty. Many of these are a matter for trial in India. Prima facie there is a case of money laundering," the judge had said while allowing Modi's extradition.

The celebrity jeweller had been arrested in 2019 and had been repeatedly denied bail as he was perceived to be a flight risk. In India, Modi faces a CBI case related to illegal letters of undertaking or loan agreements used to clear crores in loans and the Enforcement Directorate case relating to the laundering.

EXPRESS READ

Monsoon to be normal this year, says IMD

New Delhi: The southwest monsoon is expected to be normal with seasonal rainfall expected to be 98 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA), said the IMD. Based on demands from different users and government authorities for forecasts of the spatial distribution of seasonal rainfall along with the regionally averaged rainfall forecasts for better regional level planning of activities. For this specific purpose, the Office of Climate Research & Services, IMD, Pune, has now developed a Multi-Model Ensemble (MME) forecasting system based on coupled global climate models from different global climate prediction and research centres, including the Monsoon Mission CFS, being used by the IMD. The LPA of the season rainfall over the country as a whole for the period 1961-2010 is 88 cm.

Afghanistan needs double peace: EAM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday said there was a need for 'double peace' in Afghanistan and that the peace process must be led, owned and controlled by the Afghans.

"In the last 20 years, we have demonstrated through our actions and projects on the ground what our real feelings are for Afghanistan. Afghanistan needs double peace. It needs peace within, and it needs peace around. We have always believed that this should be an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled process," Jaishankar said at a panel discussion at Raisina Dialogue-2021.

Speaking at the 'Junction Kabul: The Road to Peace' panel discussion with Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif and Afghan National Security Advisor Hamadullah Mohib, Jaishankar said the future of Afghanistan should not be a return to its past. "The international community should take care not to throw the baby out with the bathwater. It is the duty of Afghanistan's neighbours to contribute to this," he added. The remarks come days after the US announced that it would begin withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan on September 11, which marks the 20th anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks, in response to which the US had launched an offensive against al-Qaeda in Afghanistan.

Currently around 20,000 US troops are stationed in the warn-torn country. Reacting to the US decision, India said any political settlement in the country must preserve the socio-economic and political gains of the past 19 years. "We are following the intra-Afghan peace process... India supports a united, democratic and sovereign Afghanistan. We are concerned about the increase in violence and targeted killings in Afghanistan. India has called for an immediate ceasefire," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

EAM S Jaishankar with his Maldives counterpart Abdulla Shahid | PTI

Maldives seeks DGFT renewal from India

EAM S Jaishankar on Friday met his Maldivian counterpart Abdulla Shahid and discussed bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. This was their eighth meeting since Maldivian President Mohamed Ibrahim Solih took office in 2018. Sources said Shahid requested the Indian side for renewal of Director General of Foreign Trade notifications regarding the assured supply of essential commodities to the Maldives from India as per the bilateral trade pact. Jaishankar assured that Indian commitment will be honoured. "India is developing projects of $2bn spanning across large infrastructure such as ports, roads, bridges, water and sanitation, as well as socio-economic development impacting livelihoods of Maldivians," a source said.

REMDESIVIR SEIZED

Three persons, including two medical representatives, were arrested in Kanpur for allegedly black marketing Remdesivir injections, the UP Police said. 265 Remdesivir injections were seized from their possession

2 HELD FOR GROWING CANNABIS IN FLAT IN THANE

INDIA	Max	Min	INDIA	Max	Min
Ahmedabad	41	27	Mumbai	32	27
Bhopal	37	21	Panaji	33	26
Jaipur	33	21	Patna	39	25
Amritsar	28	17	Lucknow	35	24
Chennai	34	25	Port Blair	30	27
Kolkata	36	28	Imphal	31	15
Srinagar	13	07	Chandigarh	32	20

ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2021 DECIDE

All the Central aid sent for the development of poor people goes to the account of TMC. Now you judge, does this low-minded ruler want development of Bengal? – Locket Chatterjee, BJP

BJP doesn't want to club remaining phases of polls. It wants a level playing field! + their umpires, their ball, their stumps, their gloves, their bat – Derek O'Brien, TMC

Why this choice of time @ECI? To facilitate PM/HM to jet set from Delhi & return to safety of their homes after addressing rallies in daytime? If concern is Covid why not the whole day? – Sitaram Yechury, CPI(M)

₹1K cr

Value of total seizure of cash, liquor and other inducements in 5 states where polls are being held

₹300 cr

Value of total seizures in West Bengal so far. TN tops the list with ₹446.3 crore worth seizures

RSP candidate dies of Covid

Revolutionary Socialist Party candidate Pradip Kumar Nandi, who tested positive for Covid-19 four days ago, died on Friday. Nandi, 73, the party's nominee from the Jangipur Assembly constituency in Murshidabad district in the ongoing elections, was in home isolation and taken to the Berhampore hospital on Thursday night after his condition deteriorated. He had comorbidities and died at the medical facility.

Five candidates test positive

At least five candidates of different parties contesting the ongoing Assembly election in West Bengal have tested positive for Covid-19. Out of the five candidates who tested positive, three are from the Trinamool Congress (TMC), and one each from the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). According to a poll official, "The candidates who tested positive must immediately stop campaigning."

EC issues notice to TMC leader

The poll panel on Friday issued a notice to TMC leader Sujata Mondal Khan for her alleged comments on scheduled castes and gave her 24 hours to make her stand clear. According to a portion of her remarks reproduced in the notice, the TMC leader had reportedly said that "as there is scarcity of resources in the SC families, no matter how much Mamata Bandyopadhyay has helped them, the scarcity will not go".

Mamata Banerjee at a public meeting in North 24 Parganas district; Amit Shah campaigning in Nadia district | BIBHASH LODH, PTI

Covid surge is TMC's new weapon against BJP camp

Mamata says cases rising in state due to outsiders brought by BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kolkata

THE TMC has found a new weapon to attack BJP. It's the rising number of Covid-19 cases in the state. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has accused the saffron party of bringing in outsiders for election work, which she claims, has caused a surge in numbers.

Addressing a rally at Nabadwip in Nadia on Friday, Mamata said: "Do not spread coronavirus in Bengal Narendra Modiji. I am repeatedly saying this. You can visit Bengal and address rallies. But your party is bringing in people from Gujarat and Rajasthan for erecting stages and doing other works for BJP rallies. These outsiders are spreading Covid in Bengal," she lashed out.

Claiming that the pandemic scenario in Bengal was under control, the CM continued lambasting the BJP. "We kept cases under control. But since the outsiders started stepping in, cases are rising alarmingly."

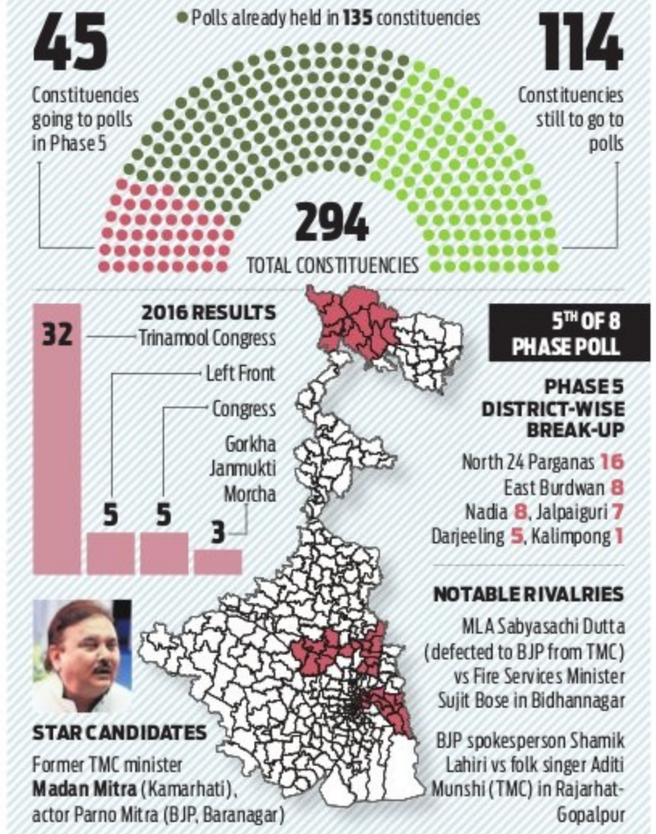
Without naming BJP's heavyweights visiting Bengal, Mamata said: "The situation was alright for five-six months. Modiji could have saved all by giving vaccines. But he did not do that. Now they are bringing thousands of people in Bengal who are going back after spreading the virus."

Mamata requested the Election Commission to make Covid-19 tests mandatory for outsiders. UP CM Yogi Adityanath, who visited the state on several occasions and addressed rallies, tested positive for Covid-19 on Thursday. Bengal recorded its highest single-day spike of 6,769 cases in the last 24 hours.

Mamata used the 'outsider' jibe on several occasions in the past while attacking BJP. She labelled the saffron camp a party of outsiders who do not understand Bengal's culture. As the state is witnessing a fierce electoral battle, she has given a new twist to the narrative by adding the Covid-19 angle.

Referring to her promise to give free Covid vaccines, Mamata accused the Centre of doing politics. "I wanted free vaccination for all. But the Centre is not giving us adequate doses. BJP is doing politics over this which is shameful," she said.

BATTLE FOR BENGAL



Security personnel taking the rounds ahead of polls in Kolkata on Friday | PTI

HC directs CID to submit report on probe into CISF firing

KOLKATA: The Calcutta High Court on Friday directed the state CID to place before it a report on the progress of investigation into the firing by CISF personnel at Sitalkuchi which resulted in the death of four persons during the fourth phase of Assembly polls in West Bengal.

Hearing two public interest litigations seeking a judicial probe into the incident, a division bench comprising Chief Justice T B N Radhakrishnan and Justice Arijit Banerjee directed the CID to place the report by May 5, when the petitions, being heard jointly, will be taken up again for further hearing.

Advocate General for the state, the Additional Solicitor General appearing for the CISF and the counsel for the Election Commission of India submitted before the court that two FIRs have been lodged; one at the instance of an officer of the CISF and another at the instance of an individual in with the death of the four persons at Sitalkuchi in Cooch Behar district on April 10.

The court was informed that the state CID is investigating the incident, following which it was directed to submit a report on the progress of the investigation by the next date of hearing. The petitioners have also prayed for a direction for adequate monetary compensation to the family of the four killed in the firing. *PTI*

Long schedule, lack of fresh issues force parties to rekindle NRC debate

PRANAB MONDAL @Kolkata

IN the seemingly endless election campaign trail in West Bengal, issues often keep resurfacing. It's understandable. When the election battle is held over eight phases and four weeks, it becomes difficult for political parties to discover new issues on a daily basis. As a result, things keep circling in a loop.

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is one such point. Time and again, Trinamool Congress and BJP have traded barbs over this. Ahead of the fifth phase of polling on Saturday, it was no different as Union Home Minister Amit Shah and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee engaged in a war of words over NRC.

At a rally in Nabadwip, the birthplace of Sree Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Mamata said if BJP wrests power in the state, it will send refugees to detention camps and cited the example of Assam. In response, Shah accused her of depriving refugees of citizenship by opposing the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). He was addressing a rally in Tehatta, which is in the same district.

"Do not trust them. In Assam, the BJP-led government has started serving notices to refugees, who were left out of the final list of NRC, asking them to explain why they should not be evicted. The Assam government is also serving notices to send refugees to detention camps. If they come to power in Bengal, they will follow the similar route and send refugees to detention camps," said Mamata, reiterating that she would allow neither NRC nor CAA in Bengal if she wins this electoral battle.

Shah, who had earlier said in north Bengal that there are no plans of implementing NRC right now, said Mamata was misleading the refugees.

"CAA is aimed to give citizenship to refugees who had to migrate from Bangladesh because of religious persecution. Mamata didi is opposing it. She is against refugees' citizenship. She is depriving them of their rights," Shah told the gathering in Tehatta, which has a sizable population of Hindu refugees.

Amit Malviya, BJP's IT Cell head and co-observer for Bengal, accused Mamata of spreading fear over the issue of NRC despite the Union Home Minister's announcement that there is no plan to implement it.

He also claimed by releasing an audio tape that Mamata has been instructing her party candidates to spread fear over the contentious issue.

"In the audio tape, she is heard telling her candidate at Sitalkuchi, where four persons were killed in Central paramilitary firing, to spread fear over NRC. She also directed him to lodge an FIR in connection with the firing instead of allowing the families of the deceased to lodge a formal complaint. She is also heard telling the candidate to engage professional lawyers to lodge the complaint. This is evidence showing that the chief minister is doing politics over dead bodies," alleged Malviya.

In a first, Naga tribal community refuses to pay 'taxes' to multiple extremist outfits

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

A tribal community in Nagaland has declared that it will not pay "taxes" to myriad extremist groups in the state unless they unite for the greater cause of the Nagas. The leaders of Konyak community made the declaration at a "historic event" held in Mon district.

There are over a dozen extremist groups in Nagaland and barring one, the others are lying low following signing of separate ceasefire agreements with the Centre. These groups run parallel governments and survive on multiple "taxes" collected from locals.

The Against Corruption and Unabated Taxation (ACAUT) was the first civil society organisation in the state to speak up against taxation by the groups. The ACAUT had led a public movement a few years ago, insisting on "one government, one tax". However, no community, perhaps, ever made a declaration not to pay taxes to extremists like the Konyaks.

A statement issued by the Konyak leaders said ever since the beginning of Naga independence movement, the Konyaks have "endorsed sovereignty/integrity to protect the people and their land" despite suffering "brutality" at the hands of "Indian military" but even after such sacrifices, the Naga "national workers" continued to remain divided.

They said the division not only burdened the communities with multiple taxes but it also acted as an impediment in achieving an early solution to the "Naga political problem".

EXPRESS READ

Woman SPO held for blocking search ops

SRINAGAR: A woman Special Police Officer (SPO) was booked under UAPA, arrested and her services terminated for allegedly obstructing a search operation of security forces and glorifying militants in Kulgam district.

Ex CBI director dies after testing positive

PATNA: Former director of CBI Ranjit Sinha died on Friday reportedly after testing positive for Covid-19 infection on Thursday in New Delhi. Born in 1953 at Jamshedpur of undivided Bihar, Sinha joined police service in 1974.

Journalists' body appeals for safety of Myanmar scribes holed up in Manipur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guwahati

THREE journalists who have fled the coup-hit Myanmar are taking refuge in Manipur. This comes after over 2,000 Myanmar nationals, including 14 lawmakers, fled to Mizoram.

The All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU) appealed to the Manipur government to give the trio the respect that journalists are to be accorded and safe passage to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in New Delhi.

"We learnt from reliable sources that three journalists from *Mizzima* fled Myanmar and are holed up somewhere in Moreh in Manipur," AMWJU president Bijoy Kakchingtabam told this newspaper. He said the state government is yet to communicate with AMWJU on this.

"The *Mizzima* is an independent media organisation of Myanmar locals. The journalists taking shelter in Moreh are living in fear that they might be pushed back to Myanmar where their lives would be in danger. They are also fearful of harassment by the Indian security establishment," the scribes' body said in a statement.

After the February military takeover in Myanmar, the junta has taken away the licence of *Mizzima*, arrested several of its journalists, raided its office in Yangon and froze its bank account, AMWJU said in the statement.

The statement further said the journalists were refugees, seeking asylum in India due to persecution in Myanmar.

Valley hospitals in need of more ICU beds

The Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) has said more intensive care unit (ICU) beds are needed to save severely-ill Covid patients in the Valley. DAK president and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan said hospitals in Kashmir are witnessing an increase in admissions of critically ill Covid patients over the past two weeks and many of them need intensive care. "We need to increase the number of ICU beds to prevent deaths," he said, adding, "How fast intensive care is given to them determines whether they survive or not." Like other parts of the country, Jammu and Kashmir is also witnessing a fresh surge in Covid-19 cases.

SRINAGAR DIARY

FAYAZ WANI
Our correspondent in Jammu and Kashmir
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Parents urged to pay fee for survival of pvt schools

The Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir has appealed to parents whose wards are studying in various private educational institutes to pay the school fee as most schools are on the verge of closure due to financial crunch. It said the fee paid by students is the only source of income for private schools and if that income doesn't come on time, then it creates a survival issue for the institutions. The schools in Kashmir have remained mostly closed since August 5, 2019 when the Centre scrapped Article 370 and bifurcated J&K state into two UTs. The Association said there are recurrent costs for schools but the income is either stagnant or has drastically gone down. It said if the schools get closed in the absence of collection of fee, it will destabilise the entire education sector.

Poultry outlets warned against dumping waste

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has warned poultry outlets and dealers in Srinagar not to throw waste in drains and waterbodies. It cautioned that those found involved in throwing waste in drains and waterbodies shall be liable to a fine of ₹10,000 on every such instance. Besides, their business units would be sealed on subsequent offences. The SMC had been receiving complaints about poultry outlets and dealers throwing poultry waste in drains or waterbodies. The SMC is now offering a Poultry Waste Collection Service in Srinagar to the poultry dealers on a monthly charge.

Jammu vendors fume over new excise policy

The excise department has unveiled the New Excise Policy saying it is an attempt to ensure transparency in allotment of liquor shops. The excise commissioner said the new policy is completely transparent. "The policy will end favouritism. E-bidding for licenses has been confined to domiciles of J&K only," he said. However, the wine traders of Jammu rejected the policy alleging that non-locals would participate in the e-bids and snatch sway their livelihood. Of the 221 liquor shops for which e-bidding would take place, 217 are in Jammu.

21 migrants from sub-Saharan African region was killed on Friday after their boat capsized off the coast of Tunisia

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	9	SNY	Los Angeles	23	13	SNY
Colombo	30	22	TDS	Melbourne	22	14	LC
Dhaka	25	13	SNY	Moscow	18	6	LC
Dubai	24	16	SNY	New York	16	7	LC
Houston	18	13	LC	Singapore	29	26	LC
Istanbul	14	9	LC	Toronto	1	-2	LC
London	13	2	SNY	Washington	17	7	LC

Mass shooting in US city kills eight

Five injured in the late-night attack, days after Biden called for curbs on use of assault rifles

WASHINGTON

A gunman killed eight people and wounded several others before apparently taking his own life in a late-night attack at a FedEx facility near the Indianapolis airport, police said, in the latest in a spate of mass shootings in the United States after a relative lull during the pandemic.

Five people were hospitalised after the Thursday night shooting, according to police. One of them had critical injuries, police spokesperson Genae Cook said.

Another two people were treated and released at the scene. FedEx said people who worked for the company were among the dead.

A witness said that he was working inside the building when he heard several gunshots in rapid succession.

"I see a man come out with a rifle in his hand and he starts firing and he starts yelling stuff that I could not understand," Levi Miller told WTHR-TV. "What I ended up doing was ducking down to make sure he did not see me because I thought he would see me and he would shoot me."

It was the latest in a recent string of mass shootings across the US. Last month, eight people were fatally shot at massage businesses across the Atlanta area, and 10 died in gunfire at a supermarket in Boulder, Colorado.

It was at least the third mass shooting this year in Indianapolis alone. Five people, including a pregnant woman, were shot and killed in January, and a man was accused of killing three adults and a child before abducting his daughter during at argument at a home in March. Police have not identified the shooter or said whether he was an employee at the facility. They said "preliminary information from evidence at the scene" indicated that he died by suicide.

"We're still trying to ascertain the exact reason and cause for this incident," Cook said. Governor Eric Holcomb ordered flags to be flown at half-staff until April 20, and he and others decried the shooting, with some noting how frequent such attacks are.

"We wake up once more to news of a mass shooting, this time in Indiana. No country should accept this now-routine horror. It's long past time to act," Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, who is from Indiana, tweeted.

Family members gathered at a nearby hotel to await word on loved ones — and some employees were bused there for tearful reunions. But some people said they still had no information about their relatives hours later. Most employees aren't allowed to carry cellphones inside the FedEx building, making contact with them difficult.

"When you see notifications on your phone, but you're not getting a text back from your kid and you're not getting information and you still don't know where they are ... what are you supposed to do?" said Mindy Carson, holding back tears.

Her daughter, Jessica, works in the facility and she had not heard from her. *AP*

Police and fire teams arrive at the FedEx facility in Indianapolis where a gunman shot dead eight people | AP

Gun violence stains our character: Biden

US President Joe Biden on Friday ordered flags lowered to half-mast at the White House and all US government buildings in a sign of mourning after the latest mass shooting in Indianapolis. "Too many Americans are dying every single day from gun violence. It stains our character and pierces the very soul of our nation," Biden said in a statement, noting that he'd ordered flags at half-staff just weeks ago after another shooting.

Iran making 9 gm of 60% enriched uranium per hour

TEHRAN

IRAN said on Friday it has begun producing uranium at 60 per cent purity, in another breach of its commitments to the international community which is concerned about its nuclear programme.

The Islamic republic had declared it would sharply ramp up its enrichment of uranium on Tuesday, two days after an attack on its Natanz nuclear facility that it blamed on arch-foe Israel.

The incidents cast a shadow over talks in Vienna aimed at salvaging the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers that then US president Donald Trump abandoned almost three years ago.

Ali Akbar Salehi, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, confirmed Iran was now producing uranium enriched to 60 percent purity, taking the country closer to the 90 percent level required for use in a nuclear weapon.

"The enrichment of uranium to 60 per cent is underway at the Martyr Ahmadi Roshan nuclear facility" in Natanz, he said, quoted by Tasnim news agency. "We are now getting nine grams (almost a third of an ounce) per hour," Salehi said later on state television.

Iran has repeatedly insisted it is not seeking an atomic bomb, but at that rate of production, it could take the Islamic republic 322 days to produce the amount of 60 per cent enriched uranium needed in any later step to make one bomb, based on the International Atomic Energy Agency's criteria.

But this would require Iran to have a sufficient amount of 20 per cent enriched uranium, which it does not have, according to the latest IAEA data.

Tehran has gradually rolled back its nuclear commitments since 2019, a year after Washington withdrew from the accord and began imposing sanctions. Under the accord, Iran had committed to keep enrichment to 3.67 per cent, though it had stepped this up to 20 percent in January.

Negotiations aimed at ensuring the return of the United States to the JCPOA and the lifting of sanctions resumed this week in Vienna.

The head of the Iranian delegation, Abbas Araghchi, was more cautious at the end of the meeting.

Araghchi stressed Iran wanted to avoid the talks "dragging on" and that they had to "take place in a well-defined framework and within an acceptable time period".He also stated that the planned rise in enrichment levels was in order to "meet the country's medical needs". *AFP*

TIT FOR TAT

Russia bans entry of top US officials

MOSCOW

RUSSIA on Friday banned top officials from US President Joe Biden's administration from entering the country as it announced a wave of tit-for-tat sanctions and expulsions of diplomats, as tensions soar between the two.

Moscow nonetheless said it viewed the prospect of a summit between Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin "positively".

On Thursday, Washington had announced sanctions and the expulsion of 10 Russian diplomats in retaliation for what it says is interference by the Kremlin in US elections, a massive cyber attack and other hostile activity.

Moscow issued a forceful response Friday, announcing that top US officials including Attorney General Merrick Garland, Biden's chief Domestic Policy Advisor Susan Rice, and FBI chief Christopher Wray would be banned from entering Russia.

Earlier Friday Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters that Russia was responding to US sanctions in "a tit-for-tat manner" by asking ten US diplomats in Russia to leave the country.

Lavrov also said that Putin's top foreign policy aide, Yury Ushakov, had recommended that US envoy John Sullivan leave for Washington to conduct "serious consultations." *AFP*

Myanmar's ousted lawmakers form shadow government

YANGON

A "parliament" working in hiding to oust Myanmar's junta from power announced a new shadow government on Friday, with deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi at its helm alongside ethnic minority politicians.

The country has been in turmoil since the military detained Suu Kyi and seized power, triggering a massive uprising that the junta has sought to quell with lethal force. Besides demanding a return to democracy, protesters are also increasingly calling for more of a governing role for the country's minority groups —which have long seen their voices marginalised by the ethnic Bamar majority.

The Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH)—a group of lawmakers mostly from Suu Kyi's party attempting to govern underground via a shadow parliament–on Friday announced its leaders. Helming the so-called "National Unity Government" is Suu Kyi, in her position as state counsellor, and President Win Myint. Both are under house arrest and facing a barrage of charges from the junta.

They are flanked by a vice president who is ethnic Kachin and a prime minister who is ethnic Karen, said Min Ko Naing, a prominent democracy leader, in an address on the CRPH's official Facebook page. "We have organised a government which has the largest number of ethnic minority groups," he said.

While Myanmar has more than 130 official ethnic minority groups, the country's political fate has long been tightly controlled by the Bamar majority—first under a nearly five-decade junta regime which forced a so-called "Bamarisation" on minorities; and then under Suu Kyi's administration. *AFP*

Anti-coup protesters flash the three-fingered salute during a demonstration in Yangon's Ahlone township | AFP

SRI LANKA

China-backed port city faces challenge in Supreme Court

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Opposition parties, civil society groups and labour unions have filed multiple petitions in the Supreme Court against a proposed controversial legislation on the China-backed $1.4 billion Port City in Colombo, alleging that it violated the country's sovereignty, the Constitution and labour rights.

The bill titled the Colombo Port City Economic Commission was gazetted on March 23 and the ruling Rajapaksa administration tabled it in Parliament last week. The bill aims to provide for a special economic zone to establish a commission to grant registrations, licenses, authorisations and other approvals to operate business in such economic zones.

Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya has appointed a five-member bench of the highest court to hear petitions next week, officials said.

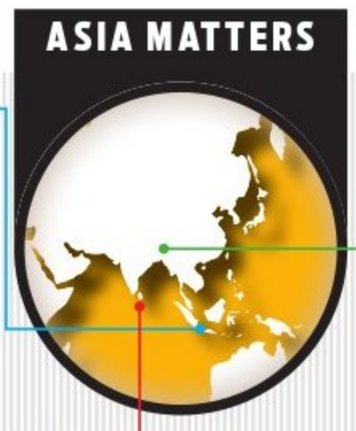
The port city, a pet Chinese project of the administration of President Mahinda Rajapaksa and touted by the government as an investment hub for foreign capital, commenced in 2014 to build a financial centre on reclaimed sea land in extent little less than three kilometres at Galle Face seafront in the heart of Colombo.

EXPRESS READ

French MPs adopt historic consent law

Paris: France's parliament adopted legislation on Thursday setting the minimum age of sexual consent at 15, a step the justice minister called "historic" in a country with traditionally permissive attitudes about sex. Sex with children under 15 is to be considered rape, punishable by up to 20 years in prison, unless there is a small age gap between the two partners.The move brings France in line with most other Western countries following years of campaigning by abuse victims. In cases of incest, the age of consent will be 18.

ASIA MATTERS



INDONESIA

Hackers arrested over $60 mn Covid-19 scam

Two Indonesian hackers have been arrested over an international scam in which $60 million was stolen from a Covid-19 aid programme helping Americans left jobless by the pandemic, authorities said. Text messages were sent to 20 million Americans directing them to more than a dozen fake US government websites, police in the Southeast Asian nation said late on Thursday. Thousands of victims supplied personal information, including social security numbers, to the fake sites in the hopes of securing $2,000 offered under a real assistance programme for the unemployed, authorities said. But their data was instead used by scam. The two suspects were arrested last month in Surabaya after police were notified by US authorities. Indonesian police did not say how long the scam had been running.

SRI LANKA

Philip's car a centrepiece at Colombo museum

An almost 90-year-old car that once belonged to Britain's late Prince Philip is now the centrepiece of a seaside museum in Sri Lanka. The Duke of Edinburgh, whose funeral will be on Saturday, was a car aficionado who bought the 1935 Standard Nine for 12 pounds when he was based in Colombo with the British Navy in 1940. "When he came back in the early 1950s, he came and saw the car," said Sanjeev Gardiner, who has kept the vehicle at his Galle Face Hotel in Colombo. The vehicle was bought by Gardiner's father Cyril in the early 1950s. Prince Philip who died last week was a car lover.

BANGLADESH

Activist crowdfunds $1,08,000 to pay for libel damages

A Singaporean activist has raised $1,08,000 he owes Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in defamation damages, the second time this month a government critic turned to the public to fund payments to the premier. Critics have accused the government of seeking to silence dissent in the tightly regulated city-state through costly libel suits, but activists are fighting back by appealing to the public for donations through social media. Roy Ngerng, a former government employee, was found guilty in 2014 of defaming Lee after accusing him in a blog of misappropriating state pension funds. He was ordered to pay Lee $1,12,000 in damages, which he has been paying in instalments. Ngerng announced Friday that he met his goal over nine days of crowdfunding

Jimmy Lai among five Hong Kong activists jailed

A Hong Kong court on Friday sentenced five leading pro-democracy advocates, including media tycoon Jimmy Lai, to up to 18 months in prison for organizing and participating in a massive march during 2019 anti-government protests that triggered an overwhelming crackdown from Beijing

FOUND GUILTY OF ORGANISING PROTESTS

A total of nine advocates were given jail terms, but four of them, including 82-year-old lawyer and former lawmaker Martin Lee, had their sentences suspended after their age and accomplishments were taken into consideration

They were found guilty earlier this month of organising and participating in a massive protest in August 2019, where an estimated 1.7 million people marched in opposition to a bill that would have allowed suspects to be extradited to mainland China

Having arrested the majority of Hong Kong's most prominent dissidents using the repressive national security law, the authorities are now mopping up remaining peaceful critics under the pretext of bogus charges related to the 2019 protests

Yamini Mishra, Amnesty International Asia-Pacific regional director

MEDIA TYCOON GETS 14-MONTH SENTENCE

- Lai was among nine of Hong Kong's most prominent democracy campaigners found guilty of organising and participating in the rally
- The founder of Hong Kong's Apple Daily tabloid was sentenced to a total of 14 months in prison Friday for charges related to demonstration on August 18, 2019, and a separate unauthorised march on August 31, 2019
- He was also slapped with two additional charges Friday, one under the national security law accusing him of conspiring to collude with foreign powers and another accusing him of helping local activists to escape the city
- The jail terms were the first ever for the 73-year-old, who has spent decades using his media empire to support democracy, a campaign that has seen him denounced by China as a "traitor"

Imran shuffles cabinet yet again, Pak gets 4th finance minister in under 3 yrs

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN Prime Minister Imran Khan has appointed Shaukat Tareen as the new finance minister, the fourth to don the mantle, in another cabinet reshuffle, it was announced by his office on Friday.

A banker by profession, Tareen, 68, served in the same capacity in the government of Pakistan Peoples Party (2009-10) for a short period before he decided to step down to raise capital for his Silk Bank.

Tareen was facing corruption charges and had initially refused to accept the post until his name was cleared. It was not known if the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) dropped charges against him or not. He is a cousin of Jehangir Tareen, dubbed as sugar baron due to several sugar mills, who is an influential politician but is facing probe in the sugar scandal of the present government.

Shaukat Tareen

Shaukat Tareen is replacing Hammad Azhar, who was appointed towards the end of the last month after Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh was removed for failure to control raging inflation in the country.

Azhar, who was also serving a minister of industries and production, was appointed Minister for Energy after the reshuffle, while Khusro Bakhtiar was given the charge of ministry of industries and production.

Minister for Science Fawad Chaudhry was appointed information minister while his predecessor Shibli Faraz was appointed as minister for science. It will be Chauhdry's second stint as information minister as he was given the charge in 2018 but later shifted to ministry of science.

Former energy minister Umar Ayub Khan was shifted to head the ministry of economic affairs. Khan has shuffled his cabinet several times since coming to power in August 2018, which his critics say was a sign of his failure to find a proper combination.

"Ministers have been changed many times but it made no difference. Maybe it is time to change the prime minister," Murtaza Wahab of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) said. *PTI*

Banks, chambers seek further NPA relief

Both industry chambers and the banking sector are worried that the second wave will result in a bad loan spike

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

BANKS, battered by the pandemic last year, are bracing for more pain after the imposition of lockdown-like curbs by several states in response to rising Covid-19 infections.

Lenders fear that the fresh restrictions would hurt borrowers, triggering a second wave of loan defaults and worsening asset quality. But, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is not keen on granting another moratorium period on loans for borrowers. This would mean that every default will be counted as a delinquency, adding to the banks' headline gross bad loan levels (GNPA) and pinching lenders harder.

Anticipating that the NPA situation will worsen, both bankers and industry chambers have pitched for some sort of relief for retail and small business loans.

In a representation to the Finance Ministry, industry body Assocham urged the government to reimpose a moratorium on taking debt-laden firms to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) till December. The government had, in June 2020, granted a moratorium on the initiation of insolvency proceedings for any defaults occurring March 25, 2020, onwards for a period of 12 months. The moratorium, however, was lifted in the last week of March.

"...placing the NCLT resolution process under suspension again is a critical interim measure, which needs to be expedited, until targeted assistance can be granted," Assocham stated. The earlier suspension had led to only 161 insolvency petitions related to earlier defaults being admitted to the NCLT during the first half of FY21 compared to 889 cases in the year-ago period.

Banks could see a sharp rise in bad loans, especially from MSMEs, as lenders won't have the cover of forbearance... We have requested the RBI to extend (Covid-restructuring) scheme —Senior banking executive

And just days ago, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had a meeting with the heads of public and private sector banks, where lenders raised concerns about a potential rise in stress levels. According to an official who attended the meeting and wished to remain unnamed, a few bank chiefs also sought an extension of the one-time restructuring scheme at least by another six months.

Many potential domestic suitors for Citi's retail biz

SESA SEN @ New Delhi

CITIGROUP may have decided to exit its consumer banking business in the Indian market—along with that of 12 other countries—but its consumer banking operations, especially the high-margin cards business, could be an attractive bet for a number of domestic private banks that are keen to shore up their retail book.

According to Macquarie Research, large and mid-sized lenders could be among key contenders for the various businesses—credit cards, wealth management and mortgages—Citibank has put on the block. "We believe smaller players like RBL, IDFC First, etc could be more aggressive in terms of bidding for the credit card book, while larger ones could bid for mortgages and wealth portfolios as it compliments their existing strategy," said Suresh Ganapathy Macquarie Capital Securities.

For instance, IndusInd Bank has been focusing on wealth management of late and it could pick up this portfolio. Earlier, the new-generation bank had profited from the acquisition of Deutsche Bank's credit card portfolio in 2011 and followed it up by buying Royal Bank of Scotland's (RBS) diamond and jewellery financing business in 2015.

When RBS exited India, RBL Bank pipped IndusInd Bank in the race to buy RBS' business banking, credit cards, and mortgage portfolio in India.

Citi's credit card segment willlikely find many suitors too owing to its affluent client mix. "SBI Cards will be a key beneficiary on improved visibility of market share gains. We expect top private banks like ICICI, Kotak to reach out to acquire client stock here," said Siji Philip, Axis Securities.

Citi commands over six per cent of the country's credit card market as on February-end—the largest among foreign banks in India. Ashish Gupta, head of research, Credit Suisse said that Citi's retail business may add about 6 to 10 per cent to the retail book of larger private banks in India. Kotak Bank has been looking for inorganic opportunities, and Gupta expects the lender to be a key contender to acquire Citi's retail operations.

Maruti Suzuki hikes model prices by up to ₹22,500

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA'S largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Friday said that it has hiked the prices of most of the models in its porfolio by up to ₹22,500 with immediate effect. According to the carmaker, the hike is to partially offset the increase in production costs driven by the recent increase in the price of key raw materials for the auto industry.

According to the company, barring Celerio and Swift, all its models will be covered under the price increase exercise. "The company is increasing the price for select models owing to increase in various input costs," the auto major said in a regulatory filing, adding that the weighted average price increase in ex-showroom prices (Delhi) across models is 1.6 per cent. The new prices are effective from Friday.

Maruti Suzuki sells a wide range of models ranging from the entry-level hatchback Alto to the S-Cross, priced between ₹2.99 lakh and ₹12.39 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi).

In March, the car market leader had said that over the cost of production for the company's vehicles has been impacted adversely due to an increase in various input costs.

More automakers are expected to increase the prices of their vehicles from this month since raw material prices have surged substantially in the last six months. Steel prices alone have gone up by 55 per cent between June-December 2020.

MSIL and other automakers have already implemented a price hike in January this year and the repeated hikes, in the range of 2-4 per cent of vehicle's ex-showroom price, can impact consumer sentiment at a time when fuel prices are also high, experts say.

Inflation trends may throw up more challenges

SUNITHA NATTI @ Hyderabad

INDIA'S CPI inflation remained irksome throughout FY21 averaging 6.2 per cent. Will it throw new challenges in the current fiscal for policymakers, who are struggling to contain the spread of Covid-19 and prevent economic growth from contracting further?

The RBI, which typically charts the course of price rise, did publish its estimates, but maintained that the inflation outlook was uncertain and that inflationary pressures were primarily supply shocks, which would either dissipate or require proactive supply management strategies.

One-year-ahead inflation expectations of households shot up since March 2020, but could be guided by food and fuel prices. Much depends on a normal monsoon season, healthy water reservoir levels, good crop output during the upcoming Kharif and Rabi sowing seasons to keep food prices soft. Separately, wholesale prices are flashing neon signs too.

"Adverse base effects and strong sequential momentum drove WPI inflation higher, with sharp month-month price gains continuing in the fuel and manufacturing segments, which could become a cause for concern. We expect WPI inflation to conitnue to rise for a few more months, possbily reaching double digits for the first time since September, 2011 in May," noted Rahul Bajoria, Chief India Economist, Barclays. Core inflation has been consistently above 5.5 per cent since July 2020 at 6 per cent in March 2021 reaching the highest since November 2011. Inflation for services like transport and communications, health, and recreation recorded high levels. Both growth and inflation are in uncomfortable zones. The higher-than-expected retail inflation and lower-than-expected industrial production may raise concerns regarding stagflation.

FY22 will also begin with a high base effect. During April-October 2020, CPI ranged between 6.2-7.6 per cent and the cumulative monthly momentum was 6.4 per cent versus 4.7 per cent in 2019. This will aid lower y-o-y readings ahead. Price pressures in core CPI have been rising, barring the most recent fall, driven by both goods and services.

Some of the factors which could define the inflation path include input cost pressures from higher commodity prices, of which crude oil is the most important. However, most of the price rise seems to be over and, incrementally, it could soften if demand weakens with a rise in Covid infections, noted Sreejith Balasubramanian, Economist, IDFC AMC. He added that while some sectors skipped a price hike in 2020 and are due one in 2021, a further delay (or only a partial roll out) of the planned price hikes is possible if demand gets weaker, input prices ease, or price elasticity of demand moves higher.

ASIANOMICS

CHINA

FIRST QUARTER GDP GROWS AT RECORD PACE

China's economic recovery quickened sharply in Q1 to record 18.3% growth from last year's deep coronavirus slump, propelled by stronger demand at home and abroad, and continued government support for smaller firms. But the brisk expansion, heavily skewed by the plunge in activity a year earlier, is expected to moderate later this year as the government turns its attention to reining in financial risks in overheating parts of the economy. The jump in GDP was also the fastest growth since quarterly records began in 1992 and higher than the 6.5% in Q4 last year. Aided by strict virus contatinment measures and emergency relief for businesses, the economy has recovered from a steep 6.8% slump in Q1, 2020. China's rebound has been led by exports as factories raced to fill overseas orders. China's retail sales also increased 34.2% y-o-y in March, while factory output grew 14.1% in March.

HONG KONG

CITI ON HIRING SPREE IN EFFORT TO TRIPLE CLIENTS

Global financial services giant Citigroup will hire 300 new relationship managers in Hong Kong and plans to triple client numbers and double assets under management in its wealth management business in the Asian financial hub. The announcement comes a day after the US bank said it would withdraw from consumer banking in 13 markets in Asia and Europe. The group plans instead to focus its east Asian consumer banking business on the wealth centres of Hong Kong and Singapore. Many large global banks are looking to provide more services to wealthy clients in Asia—both the newly affluent and the super rich.

JAPAN

CHEAP CELLPHONE FEES TO HIT INFLATION FORECASTS

The Bank of Japan's (BoJ) new price forecast due later this month will likely come under significant downward pressure due to cuts in cellphone charges, sources said, adding to doubts about when it will achieve its elusive 2% inflation target. Such renewed weakness in prices would contrast with a recent rise in US inflation that is complicating the Federal Reserve's communication with financial markets, and add pressure on the BoJ to maintain its massive stimulus for years to come, analysts say. The impact of cellphone fee cuts, however, will be transitory and won't affect the BoJ's monetary policy or its view that an expected economic reocvery will push up prices eventually, says Reuters. The government has not published estimates on how much the lower fees could affect the CPI and April CPI data won't come out until after the BoJ's meeting. Some analysts expect the fee cuts to push down core CPI by up to 0.6% points.

GMR Group announces 1,500-acre AeroCity project in Hyderabad

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Hyderabad

THE GMR Group on Friday announced the launch of the GMR AeroCity in Hyderabad—a project that will spread over 1,500 acres in the city's suburbs at Shamshabad.

The AeroCity, with the Hyderabad International Airport at its core, is envisaged as an integrated mixed-use development, which includes various establishments including a Business Park, Retail Park, Aerospace and Industrial Park, Logistics Park, Rental accommodations, Hospitality, Schools, Healthcare, Leisure and Entertainment facilities, according to a GMR Group press release.

It further said that a lifestyle destination retail project 'GMR Interchange' is also planned at the GMR AeroCity Hyderabad campus. Various entertainment avenues have been proposed, including a cinema and a family entertainment centre, as part of the project. A Hospitality district is also being planned in the AeroCity.

Meanwhile, the GMR Business Park housed in the development will offer varied office real-estate solutions, the company said, such as ready-to-move-in Grade-A offices and Built-to-Suit campuses for various industries. It will have one million square feet of leasable area spread over four towers, of which Tower 1 is already fully occupied and Tower 2 is ready for occupancy.

It will also have a dedicated power link-up with the state grid for reliable power supply, a round-the-clock three-tier security system comprising RAXA, State police and CISF, and express connectivity with the city. The project will be connected with an eight-lane express way and an elevated corridor, and to the airport through the Metro Rail

A Notified Area Committee (NAC) will be the one-stop clearance window for all building plan approvals in the project and focus on sustainable development using green tech and new generation smart digital infrastructure.

"Hyderabad AeroCity... offers connected, smart and sustainable workspaces with optimum leasing depths to maximize workspace design efficiency. It also provides unparalleled ease of doing business to its trusted partners, who love to focus on their core business, leaving behind issues of infra, facilities, security etc." said Aman Kapoor, CEO, GMR Airport Land Development.

Govt widens ECLGS scope to SMA-1 loans

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

KEEPING in mind the Covid-19 second wave, the Union Ministry of Finance on Friday extended the scope of the emergency credit line guarantee scheme (ECLGS) yet again—this time to SMA-1 category borrowers.

"We wish to inform that the ECLGS 2.0 component of ECLGS has been expanded to to SMA-1 borrowers also within its scope, other conditions remaining unchanged," a circular by the department of Financial service said. The SMA-1 category covers borrowers whose overdue period is between 31-60 days.

The ₹3-lakh crore ECLGS had been announced last year as part of the Covid-19 relief package rolled out by the Centre and involved offering Covid-hit businesses higher credit limits. According to the finance ministry, the latest iteration of the scheme involves extending credit of up to 40 per cent of total credit outstanding across all lending institutions as of February, 2020. The government earlier extended ECLG schemes up to June 30, 2021 or till guarantees worth ₹3 lakh crore were issued.

EXPRESS READ

SBI puts NPA account MSP Metallics for sale

New Delhi: SBI has put up for sale non-performing asset (NPA) account MSP Metallics Ltd against which a total of 10 banks have collective loan outstanding of over `1,493 crore. SBI has the highest share of lending (37.19 per cent) to MSP Metallics amounting to `555.51 crore. Other lenders include Indian Bank (`284.82 crore); Punjab National Bank (`229.83 crore); UCO Bank (`176.53 crore); Indian Overseas Bank (`73.56 crore); and Canara Bank (`62.66 crore).

Coal India's two new wholly-owned arms

New Delhi: State-owned Coal India on Friday announced the incorporation of two wholly-owned arms—CIL Solar PV Ltd and CIL Navikarniya Urja Ltd—in a filing to BSE. CIL Solar PV Limited has been incorporated for manufacturing in solar value chain (Ingot-wafer-Cell Module) and CIL Navikarniya Urja Limited for renewable energy, the filing said. Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output and the public sector enterprise is eyeing 1 billion tonnes of output by 2023-24.

PROBE

SEBI sends notice to Fortis subsidiary over fund diversion

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

MARKET regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued a notice to a subsidiary of Fortis Healthcare Limited in the ongoing case that relates to a diversion of funds by the company's former promoters. The company said on Friday that its management and board are evaluating the notice received by Escorts Heart Institute in consultation with its legal advisors.

"The management and Board of the Company that was newly constituted after NTK Ventures Pte Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of IHH Healthcare Berhad) became promoters of the Company, are evaluating the notice received by Escorts Heart Institute and Research Center Limited (a subsidiary of Fortis), in consultation with its legal advisors," Fortis Healthcare said in stock exchange filings.

In 2018, the market regulator had asked Fortis Healthcare to take all necessary steps to recover ₹403 crore along with due interest from its former promoters Malvinder Singh, Shivinder Singh and other entities including Religare Finvest Limited. According to the regulator's instructions, the money was to be recovered within three months. The funds had been reported on the balance sheet of Fortis Healthcare Ltd as cash and cash equivalents, but the money was routed and placed under the control of the Singhs at the time.

Mindtree Q4 net profit jumps 54%, firm eyes double-digit growth in FY22

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

IT major Mindtree on Friday disclosed its fourth quarter financial results to show that its consolidated net profit for the period rose a sharp 53.9 per cent to ₹317.3 crore on the back of strong operational efficiency,. The management also expressed confidence that it would clock double-digit growth in the current financial year.

The Bengaluru-based company's net profit had come in at ₹206.2 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal year. Its revenue, meanwhile, grew 2.9 per cent to ₹2,109.3 crore from ₹2,050.5 crore a year ago. In dollar terms, net profit was up 53.4 per cent at $43.3 million and revenue by 3.5 per cent at $288.2 million during the period.

"With our sustained growth momentum, we are confident about our opportunities ahead, and the outlook for FY22. Clients appreciate the value that we create and recognise our ability to deliver transformational engagements. Our pipeline continues to be robust with a good mix of annuity deals," Mindtree CEO and MD Debashis Chatterjee said, adding that Mindtree continues to cross-sell and upsell within and across its client base, growing its order book 20 per cent q-o-q to $375 million.

"Being mindful of the uncertainty introduced by the pandemic, we are geared up to respond to the increased opportunities and business traction. It is our endeavour to deliver double digit growth in FY22, while sustaining EBIDTA at 20 per cent-plus levels," Chatejee added.

Board decides on final dividend of 175%

Mindtree Board has recommended a final dividend of 175 per cent, or ₹17.50 per equity share for the financial year ended March 31, 2021. The final dividend is subject to the approval of shareholders at the 22nd Annual General Meeting. Shares of Mindtree closed marginally up in the stock markets at ₹2,067.60 per equity share

Bank employee unions request finance ministry to reduce banking hours

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

GIVEN the rise in Covid-19 cases, the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), an umbrella body of nine bank employee unions, has requested the Union finance ministry to reduce the mandated working hours for the banking sector.

"We call upon you to instruct all the banks to deploy minimum possible staff/officers at branches/offices. Measures like working with one-third of staff strength, Work from Home, should be implemented for next 4-6 months. Staff/officers to be called on rotation so that exposure is reduced," UFBU said in its representation.

Instead of opening all branches at multi-centres, numbers may be restricted in such a manner that banking facilities can be extended at a few select branches. The unions also suggested that the compensation of ₹50 lakh be given to the next of kin of deceased frontline Covid warriors should be extended to bank staff too.

The representation has been handed over to the Secretary, Department of Financial Services. The finance ministry had earlier requested vaccination for all bank employees irrespective of age on a priority basis, but the request remains pending.

Arundhati, Babyrojisana book last-eight berth

Khelo India Games gold medallist Arundhati Choudhary (69kg) and Babyrojisana Chanu (51kg) advanced to the quarterfinals, while three others from the country also notched up wins in the opening rounds at the Youth World Championships in Kielce, Poland. However, it was curtains for Vikas (52kg) and Arshi Khanam (54kg), who lost their second-round contests.

'Japanese enthusiastic about Tokyo Olympics'

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Chennai

ON MONDAY, a *Kyodo News*, one of Japan's leading news agencies, had revealing poll numbers vis-a-vis Olympics. The poll 'found 39.2 per cent believe the postponed Olympics and Paralympics should be cancelled, while 32.8 per cent think they should be rescheduled. Only 24.5 per cent responded that the Games should be held as scheduled', *Kyodo News* wrote on their website.

One person who spent considerable time in Japan since the pandemic broke out is the Japan men's team's hockey coach, Siegfried Aikman. Aikman, who is currently quarantining with the team in Kuala Lumpur before a series of friendly matches with Great Britain and Malaysia from April 17 - 25, is of the opinion that the majority of the Japanese public are actually 'enthusiastic for the Games'. "I know if you look at the newspaper reports, you start thinking that the people are not looking forward to the Games or perhaps they do not want it to be held," he told this daily. "But all the people I have met are looking forward to the Games, they are incredibly enthusiastic and looking forward to it."

That includes his own wards, who will play their first matches in over 18 months when they face Malaysia in a few days' time. "My players are incredibly excited," he says. "They have all sacrificed a lot of things to get here." However, he does agree that there are a few areas of concern. "What I can tell you about the Japanese public is they are very afraid of catching the virus." The poll agrees with this sentiment, by and large. "In the poll, 92.6 percent said they feel anxious about a resurgence of novel coronavirus infections."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Asian gold for Vinesh; Divya, Anshu on top too

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

EVER since she first competed at the continental championships eight years ago, Vinesh Phogat has been chasing the elusive gold in the event. The 26-year-old grappler from Haryana came close to winning the title thrice (2015, 17 and 18) but could only manage to finish second. Incidentally, she was defeated in all those summit clashes either by Japanese or Chinese wrestlers. With no participants from these countries at the ongoing Asian Championships in Almaty, Vinesh finally secured her maiden title without even conceding a point on Friday.

"It's good that she has finally clinched the Asian gold. She will be returning to the country on Saturday and train here at the Pratap Sports School in Kharkhoda," coach Om Prakash Dahiya told this daily.

Before Friday, Vinesh had won seven medals at the meet including four bronze. Also, it was her third consecutive gold since she made a return to the international circuit after Covid-19 halted the international sporting calendar. India won three gold and a silver on Day 4 of the event with Anshu Malik (57kg) and Divya Kakran (72kg) winning titles in their respective weight categories.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Next few weeks 'challenging' as 13 shuttlers withdraw

ANMOL GURUNG @Chennai

AS DELHI reported 19,486 new positive coronavirus cases and 141 deaths on Friday, the severity of the situation wasn't lost to the Badminton World Federation (BWF) and Badminton Association of India (BAI). Both bodies told this daily that they're closely monitoring the situation. This development comes hot on the heels of as many as 13 singles players including Carolina Marin withdrawing (as on April 16).

In order to curb the alarming coronavirus cases, Delhi, the host city, is currently under weekend curfew. Both BAI and BWF are hopeful the curfew will brings its desired effect. "The BAI has been proactive and monitoring the situation. They are looking at curfews in New Delhi. If that helps in keeping the surge in check that could be a good sign. We'll have a meeting after that," Ajay Singhania, BAI general secretary, told this daily.

WITHDRAWAL LIST (AS ON APRIL 16)

Women's singles: 8 (1 reserve)
Men's singles: 5 (1 reserve)
Men's doubles: 4 (2 reserve)
Women's doubles: 3 (1 reserve)
Mixed doubles: 3 (1 reserve)

Acknowledging they're aware of the spike in cases, BWF is confident the measures put in place will ensure the safety of players who'll be participating. "We are aware of the recent spike in Covid-19 cases in India but have full confidence that the measures put in place will protect the safety of all players and participants," Thomas Lund, BWF secretary, told this daily.

Just a few days ago, BAI had officially announced the tournament will be held behind closed doors without the spectators from May 11-16. Singhania admitted the next few weeks will be a real challenge. "We are doing everything in our power to ensure the tournament goes ahead as per plan. But there's so much uncertainty now. It will all depend upon the government, the health ministry, the sports ministry. We are constantly in touch with them."

Marin, who was seeded No 1 in the women's singles category, confirmed her withdrawal on Thursday, according to the BWF.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

SAME HOLE STORY FOR HYDERABAD

TODAY'S MATCH @ CHENNAI 7.30 PM, LIVE ON SS 1

ROUND THREE

The slow, low Chepauk surface will again be in focus as Mumbai Indians and Sunrisers Hyderabad face each other. Here's a look at the match-up

Teams to frontload batting line-up?

Scoring at the death in Chepauk has clearly been hard for the teams. So teams could now look at promoting hitters up the order and see if they can take advantage of the new balls and field restrictions in the first six overs. Mumbai could well do this to get more in the powerplay.

Where do Sunrisers go from here?

Only team to have lost both their games, it's time to have a relook at their plans, especially their batting line-up. Is it a time to give Jason Roy a go to strengthen that top-order. They desparately need their middle-order to come good.

Lack of stability in the middle-order a concern for SRH ahead of Mumbai test

MARTIN JOSEPH @Kochi

AFTER two straight defeats to start their IPL campaign, Sunrisers Hyderabad face some tough questions on what is their best combination, how much they miss someone like Kane Williamson and the contributions of their younger Indian batsmen.

The task at hand doesn't get any easier as their next opponents are defending champions Mumbai Indians. Against a well-balanced unit like Mumbai, the Orange Army will have to be at their very best. But based on their performances, it appears as if they still haven't been able to field their best XI and are continuing to rely on star players like David Warner, Rashid Khan and Bhuvneshwar Kumar to conjure up some magic.

These are players who have single-handedly won matches for the Hyderabad outfit. On his day, Warner can bring any bowling attack to submission while Rashid can bamboozle the batsmen. Wriddhiman Saha showed last season that he can open the innings with Warner and even overshadow the Australian with his breathtaking stroke-play.

But when these brute forces fail, Sunrisers could always rely on the calm-calculating presence of Williamson. The Kiwi skipper was even benched last season to accommodate Bairstow alongside Warner at the top of the order but the team's think tank quickly realised that Williamson brought solidity to an otherwise flaky and inconsistent middle-order.

What makes matters complicated is that the Kiwi skipper is nursing an elbow injury and will only be available in a week's time. "It's been a bit of a balance between practice and rehab and sort of things. But for the most part, the progression is been really good. So pretty optimistic about being close to full fitness very soon," Williamson said in a video posted by Sunrisers on social media on Friday.

The automatic replacement for Williamson was Bairstow as the two have been fighting for one spot in the team. The Englishman who slotted into the number four position scored a half-century against Knight Riders but managed only 12 against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Chahar bowls CSK to victory

ENS/AGENCIES @Mumbai

DEEPAK Chahar's superb opening spell stood out as Chennai Super Kings defeated Punjab Kings by six wickets at the Wankhede Stadium Friday. Chasing 107, Chennai got home in 15.4 overs.

Earlier, Tamil Nadu's powerhitter M Shahrukh Khan was the only Punjab batsman to make an impression, with a 36-ball 47 (4X4s, 2X6s) before falling to Sam Curran in the final over as CSK was all over their opponent. Sam Curran (1/12), Moeen Ali (1/17), Dwayne Bravo (1/10) were the other wicket-takers for CSK. Aiming to bounce back after being outclassed by Delhi Capitals in their opening match, CSK bowlers justified skipper MS Dhoni's decision to bowl first by reducing Punjab to 26 for four in the powerplay.

Brief scores: Punjab 106-8 in 20 ovs (Shahrukh 47, Chahar 4/13) lost to Chennai 107-4 in 15.4 ovs (Moeen 46, Du Plessis 36 n.o).

EXPRESS READ

Sonam, Anshu & four sailors in TOP scheme

NEW DELHI: The sports ministry has included six athletes, including Tokyo Olympic-bound wrestlers Sonam Malik and Anshu Malik, besides four sailors in its Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) core group.

Arsenal, Man United in Europa semifinals

PARIS: Arsenal scored three goals within six minutes of the first half to reach the Europa League semifinals as they eased past hosts Slavia Prague 4-0 on Thursday. Meanwhile, Manchester United will face AS Roma after overcoming Granada 4-0.

Local football leagues suspended

BENGALURU: In the wake of rising Covid-19 cases, the Karnataka State Football Association has asked its district football associations to suspend all official leagues and other events until further notice. The ongoing leagues will resume when it is safe. However, three BDFA 'B' division matches were played here on Friday.

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CORRIGENDUM No. - 10
Tender Details
Tender No: ELCORE-OHE-EPC-13 — Closing Date/Time: 17.05.2021 15:00
(Open Tender)
Name Of Work: EPC TENDER: Request for Proposal for "Electrification of the railway lines in various sections of Northeast Frontier Railway of EPC package no. 13 (the "Project") through Engineering, Procurement and Construction (the "EPC") Contract".
Items Modified
NIT Header

Field Name	Existing Value	Modified Value
Tender Closing Date Time	30.04.2021 15:00	17.05.2021 15:00
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KW - 3 (Two Cover System) E-Procurement
SHORT TERM TENDER POSTPONEMENT NOTIFICATION Dated : 15-04-2021
On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of State of Karnataka, as per **K.T.P.P act** with latest amendments, Item wise e-procurement tenders are invited for the works mentioned under **H/A : 4702-SCP, 4702-TSP & 4702-M.O.T.** Pradhana from the eligible contractors of suitable category registered under **KPWD / MI.** Tender publishing details are as given below.
1) Tender will be published through e-procurement on Dated : 19-04-2021. (2) Last date of queries on Dated : 26-04-2021 at 16.00 Hours. (3) Last date for Receipt of completed tenders through e-procurement portal may be uploaded before 17.00 Hours on Dated : 27-04-2021. (4) KW3, KW 1 & 2 Technical Bid will be opened on Dated : 29-04-2021 at 11.00 Hours. (5) KW3 Financial Bid will be opened on Dated : 30-04-2021 at 11.00 Hours.
For further details, visit e-procurement **website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or from the office undersigned, on working days. If the office happens to be closed on dates above as specified, the next working day at the same time and venue will be considered.
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NO.S&C5(1)/PWS-2010/TN/2021 Date: 17.04.2021
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Fax: 080-4055 4040 Website: www.junglelodges.com
Date: 15.04.2021
INVITATION FOR TENDER
Jungle Lodges and Resorts Ltd., Invites Tender for Construction and Development of Chandrampali Nature Camp in Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary, Kalaburgi District, Karnataka. The details of tender documents are available in the website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** The last date for receipt of tender document (through e-Procurement portal) is **03.05.2021, 15.00 Hours .**
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ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
E-Mail ID:dho.mandya@gmail.com, P.No:08232-224027
ಸಂ:ಸರಬ/29/2020-21 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15.04.2021
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ವಿಷಯ:- ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ರವರ ಅಧೀನದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ 6 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳಿಗೆ 2021-22 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಾನ್ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಸೇವಾ ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.
ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ:- ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಇವರು ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಕಡತದ ಕಂಡಿಕೆ 29 ರಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಅನುಮತಿಯಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 05.04.2021.
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ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ವಿಷಯ	ದಿನಾಂಕ
01	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿ:09.04.2021 ರಿಂದ
02	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿ:21.04.2021 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ರವರೆಗೆ
03	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿ:23.04.2021 ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ
04	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿನಾಂಕ:26.04.2021 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ
05	ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ	ರೂ.1,52,00,000-00 (ಒಂದು ಕೋಟಿ ಐವತ್ತೆರಡು ಲಕ್ಷ)
06	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ (2.5%)	ರೂ.3,80,000-00

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/-ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
DIPR/AD-MDY/MCA/033/2021-22

भारत सरकार / Government of India,
परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग / Department of Atomic Energy,
नाभिकीय ईंधन सम्मिश्र / Nuclear Fuel Complex,
Power Distribution, 2nd Floor, Sarathi Building, ECIL Post, Hyderabad – 500 062
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, उप मुख्य अभियंता (सीईडी,ईपी एवं पीडी), सारथी भवन, नाभिकीय ईंधन सम्मिश्र, हैदराबाद– 500062, निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए अनुमोदित और पात्र ठेकेदार जिन्होंने इसी प्रकार के कार्य और क्षमताएँ रखने वाले कार्य किए हैं से मुहरबंद मद दरनिविदाएं आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। ई– निविदा के लिए www.tenderwizard.com/DAE. को देख सकते हैं।
On behalf of President of India, Dy Chief Engineer (CED,EP&PD), Sarathi Bldg, Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad- 500062, invites sealed item rate Public tenders from the eligible contractors who have executed works of similar nature and magnitude for the following works. E-tender, visit www.tenderwizard.com/DAE.

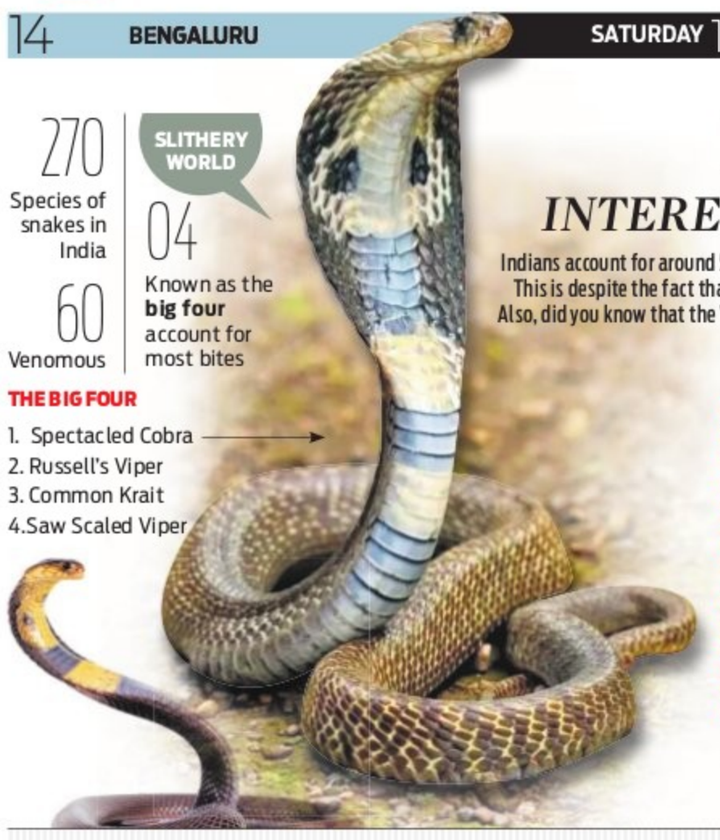
S. No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	(EMD) (Rs.)	E-tender processing fee	Tender sale period	Last Date online submission of bids	Date of submission of hard copies	Due date of Opening bids (Part-I)
1.	NFC/NFC-K/ ELE/2021/10 (E-Tender & Two Part Tender)	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Electrical works for Fuel tube shops at NFC-Kota.	Rs. 1439.87 Lakhs.	Bid Security shall be submitted	Rs. 5900/-	16.04.2021 to 30.04.2021	17.05.2021 upto 21:00 Hrs	24.05.2021 upto 14:00 Hrs	24.05.2021 at 15:00 Hrs
2.	NFC/NFC-K/ ELE/2021/13 (E-Tender & Two Part Tender)	Electrical Power Distribution Works for Meltshop, Workshop and ZRS at NFC-Kota.	Rs. 786.60 Lakhs.	Bid Security shall be submitted	Rs. 5900/-	16.04.2021 to 30.04.2021	17.05.2021 upto 21:00 Hrs	24.05.2021 upto 14:00 Hrs	25.05.2021 at 10:30 Hrs

पात्रता मानदंड, निबंधन एवं शर्तें एवं विस्तृत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना के लिए कृपया www.nfc.gov.in. की वेबसाइट पर जाएं। भाग लेने के लिए निविदा दस्तावेज www.tenderwizard.com/DAE पर उपलब्ध है। बोलिकर्ताओं को निविदाओं में भाग लेने के लिए उन्हें ई–निविदा में अपना नाम दर्ज करवाना होगा जोकि अनिवार्य है। ई–निविदा के विवरण हेतु श्री विशाल कुमार से सेल संख्या 09849585902 पर संपर्क स्थापित किया जा सकता है। अर्हकता प्राप्त करने वाले बोलिकर्ताओं को निविदा के भाग–2 को खोलने की तिथि बाद में सूचित की जाएगी।
eligibility criteria, terms & conditions and detailed notice inviting tender, please log on to www.nfc.gov.in. e-Tender document for participation is available on www.tenderwizard.com/DAE. Bidders have to register for e-tendering which is compulsory for participating in tendering. For e-Tender details contact Sri Vishal Kumar Cell No. 09849585902. Date for opening Part-2 of tender will be intimated subsequently to the qualified bidders.
उप मुख्य अभियंता (सीईडी,पीडी एवं ईपी),
Dy. Chief Engineer (CED, PD, &EP)
भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए एवं की ओर से For & On behalf of the President of India

KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
Bangalore Rural Branch: No. 197, 1st Floor, 2nd Stage, West of Chord Road, Bangalore 560 086, Ph : 23197995, 23197996
E-Mail : rur@ksfc.co Website: www.ksfc.in
POSSESSION NOTICE {Appendix IV Rule 8(1)}
Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised Officer of Karnataka State Financial Corporation under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sec.13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand Notice dated **11.02.2021** calling upon the borrower **Smt. Sumati K,** Prop of **M/s Siri Eco Friendly Products**, personal guarantor **Sri Hari Reddi** and Collateral security holder **V R Thirupal**, all residing at New House List No.1033, New BBMP Khata No. 427, Narashimha Swamy Temple road situated at Kammagondanahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Tq. to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs. 43,04,291.00 (Rupees forty three laks four thousand two hundred ninety one only)** as on 10.02.2020 within 60 days from the date of the said notice. The above Demand Notice was duly served.
The borrower / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on in under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule-9 of the said Rules on this **12th day of April of the year 2021.**
The borrower / Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property & any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Karnataka State Financial Corporation for an amount **Rs. 43,04,291.00** and interest thereon.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY :
All that part and parcel of the property consisting of property bearing site No. 1033, New Khaneshumari / New House List No.1033, New BBMP Khata No. 427, situated at Kammagondanahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Tq., measuring 1305 sq.ft., along with building of Sri V R Thirupal, having following boundaries : On the North by: 20 ft road, On the South by : Property No.68 vacant site of Sri Thirupal, On the East by : HSL No.1034 house of Sri Kemmutha, On the West by: HSL No.1032 house of Sri Subba Reddy.
Place: Bangalore — **Sd/-**
Date: 16.04.2021 — **Assistant General Manager**

Snake venom is a complex cocktail of toxins that varies from species to species. And that is why one cannot have one-size-fits-all protocol. Some enzymes and proteins in the venom interfere with the signals sent by nerve cells

This can lead to rapid, painful muscle contractions or paralysis. Victims often suffocate as the respiratory system malfunction. Toxins in black mamba venom bind to heart muscle cells to prevent them from beating



270 Species of snakes in India

60 Venomous

SLITHERY WORLD

04 Known as the **big four** account for most bites

THE BIG FOUR

1. Spectacled Cobra
2. Russell's Viper
3. Common Krait
4. Saw Scaled Viper

EXFILE • NATURE

INTERESTING HISSTORY

Indians account for around 50% of snakebite victims in the world and over 35% deaths every year. This is despite the fact that the cost of anti-venoms in India is one of the cheapest in the world. Also, did you know that the World Health Organization classified snakebites as a neglected tropical disease a few years ago?

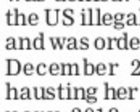
BITING NUMBERS

2.8 MN cases of snakebites in India every year

50,000 Deaths in India

138,000 Snakebite deaths every year around the world

1.2 Million snakebite deaths in India in the past 2 decades



43% Snakebites attributed to the Russell's viper

4.5 Million snakebite cases worldwide each year

ANTI-VENOM

While many anti-venoms are relatively effective, the complex nature of snake venom can make treatment difficult. Access can be patchy and treatments expensive

$17,000 Cost per vial in parts of the US

$100-200 Per vial in Mexico

$18-200 Cost per vial in Sub-Saharan Africa

$6.5-11 PER VIAL IN INDIA

PRICE DIFFERENTIAL

Much of the difference in price is due to the way healthcare is funded rather than production costs

In Latin America, domestic production and steady supply keep prices low

In US, legal, regulatory and hospital costs, alongside the idiosyncrasies of the US medical insurance system, drive up prices 1,000-fold

India has some of the cheapest anti-venom in the world, but problems with quality and availability often mean patients do not have access

Rural communities struggle to get treatment and are disproportionately hit by the consequences of snakebites

HOW'S IT MADE

- Anti-venom is made by collecting venom from the snake through a process known as milking
- A small dose is injected into a horse and the antibodies it then produces is collected
- After purification, they can be injected into bite victims to neutralise toxins

THE ISSUES

- Not always effective and can require large amounts as the number of antibodies in each dose can be low
- The low levels of antibodies that target toxins can also lead to anaphylactic shock as the patient's immune system reacts to the animal antibodies in the antidote, a condition known as serum sickness

SCARY DISEASE

The World Health Organization has classified snakebite envenomation – where venom is injected by a bite – as a neglected tropical disease owing to the burden it places on the economy. Here are some of the effects of snakebite:

- Death
- Long-term disabilities
- Limb necrosis leading to amputations
- Disfigurement
- Blindness
- Psychological effects
- Loss of job, work

INDIA'S TREATMENT

Hospitals in India primarily use a polyvalent (or multipurpose) anti-venom as an antidote against the big four

It is produced using venom from these four snakes and is used for general snakebite treatment

Largely ineffective against the venom of other important snakes in the country

Among the big four, the toxins vary depending on where in the country they are. Anti-venom produced using snakes in southIndia might be less effective against the venom from the same species in the north

At 18.3%, China GDP gallops to recovery, growth

Success attributed to keeping the industries running even during pandemic, low base year

ECONOMY

BEIJING: By its own admission, China's vaccine has not shown the efficacy it expected. Further, largely regarded as the epicenter of the coronovirus outbreak, China was one of the worst hit. Yet when numbers are crunched, the country has bucked the trend of contractions to emerge as one of the fastest recovering and growing economies around the world. At 18.3%, China's GDP expansion in the first quarter is indicative of a strong foundation and greater aspirations while the rest of the world takes tentative steps.

Friday's data signals the fastest pace of growth since quarterly records began three decades ago. However, the numbers, coming as they do in the wake of a historic contraction in 2020, conceal more than they reveal. While the coronavirus first emerged in central China in late 2019, the country was also the quickest to bounce back after authorities imposed strict control measures and consumers stayed home.

"The national economy made a good start," National Bureau of Statistics spokeswoman Liu Aihua told reporters Friday. The sharp spike was partly due to "incomparable factors such as the low base figure of last year and increase of working days due to staff staying put during the Lunar New Year" holiday, said Liu.

Migrant workers were urged to remain in the areas where they work during the break owing to fears that the annual massive migration might lead to local outbreaks. On a quarterly basis, GDP rose 0.6 percent from the last quarter of 2020, slowing slightly, a shift analysts attributed to a wave of local virus outbreaks which triggered travel restrictions and lockdowns.

In a sign that the country's crucial consumer sector is getting back up to pace, the figures showed retail sales surged in March, bringing first-quarter growth to 33.9 percent as life largely returned to normal.

Industrial output rose a less-than-estimated 24.5 percent in the quarter. The figures come days after officials announced that exports, and particularly imports, had rocketed in March. Liu, however, warned that the international landscape still contained "high uncertainties".

While vaccines are being rolled out around the world, the distribution is uneven and a pick-up in infections is forcing governments to reimpose containment measures, holding back recovery. The urban unemployment rate, a figure analysts have been closely watching, ticked down slightly to 5.3%. But economists expect growth drivers could change in the months ahead and have warned of an "uneven" recovery so far.

But Oxford Economics' head of Asia economics Louis Kuijs cautioned that "a full rebound in household spending hinges on convincing vaccination and further improvements in labour market conditions".

Beijing has been working to reposition its economy from a coal-powered manufacturing base to one powered by high-tech green energy and domestic consumption.

But the country's strong post-pandemic recovery has been powered by coal, with a raft of new plants approved, and environmentalists are concerned this could stem the shift towards greener policies.

Mom's 3-year church refuge gives asylum

HUMANITY

SALT LAKE CITY: After over three years living in a Salt Lake City church to avoid being deported, Honduran immigrant Vicky Chavez stepped outside Thursday with tears in her eyes as church congregants and friends cheered, celebrating her freedom.

Chavez and her two young daughters took sanctuary in First Unitarian Church in January 2018 after she said she fled Honduras and sought asylum in the US but was denied. Chavez entered the US illegally in June 2014 and was ordered deported in December 2016. After exhausting her appeals in January 2018, Chavez had a plane ticket home. She instead accepted an offer of sanctuary from the church.

Chavez said she received a notice from Immigration on Monday that she had been granted a so-called a stay of removal, which limits her risk of being deported for a year.

Patients gain as poems offer rhyme and reason

LITERATURE

PARIS: Cooped up every day by the pandemic, 79-year-old Francoise is tired of looking at the tower blocks outside her window. "There's not much greenery," she says. Luckily, her "doctor" for the day has the right medicine. Isabelle Jeanbrau, a member of the Paris-based Theatre de la Ville, leafs through a folder of poems and picks one by Anna de Noailles, "The Offerings of Nature". "To take you on a little trip," says Jeanbrau.

The reading is punctuated by little expressions of joy from the patient. "She's understood what I love," coos Francoise, who asked not to give her full name. They are sat in L'Espace Phare, a day centre run by a mental health association, and Jeanbrau is part of a pioneering project using arts as a salve for vulnerable members of society. The poem unleashes Francoise's memories and soon she is recalling everything from her childhood in Vichy to her years as a seamstress at Chanel.

Jeanbrau looks through the folder for something to remind Francoise of her working days. She settles on Baudelaire's "With Her Pearly, Undulating Dresses" and Francoise is captivated once more.

"It's like she's reading ME," she tells AFP, and adds, laughing: "If you could read these things to everyone, there wouldn't be any more crazies out there." She is surprised that she has opened up so much to a stranger, but Jeanbrau is not.

"Very often, poems are a key that opens a door," Jeanbrau says. And the therapy works both ways: "At a time when artists feel totally muzzled, suddenly we have the feeling of being essential." The project began modestly with poetry readings over the phone for anyone needing a little uplift.

Planned before the pandemic, it began just at the right moment in March 2020 and proved wildly successful, delivering some 15,000 "phone consultations" over the past year.

MASTER COPY

A 3D printed digital exact twin copy made of acrylic resin covered with marble dust to replicate Michelangelo's statue, the boy warrior David, to represent Italy at the upcoming Dubai Expo 2021 | AFP

FACT OF THE MATTER

The whitest paint yet

RESEARCH

Engineers in the US claim to have created 'the whitest paint yet', which they say will help tackle global warming. The ultra-white coating, developed at Purdue University in Indiana, reflects up to 98.1% sunlight while sending away infrared heat. Currently, paints on the market designed to reject heat only reflect somewhere between 80 and 90% sunlight. Buildings in hot climates coated with the new paint would stay cool more efficiently, reducing the need for air conditioning technology. Paints could offer an environmentally-friendly way of reducing the power required to keep them constantly running in balmy weather, the researchers said.

Go out in the sun for Vit D

STUDY

If you feel like Superman in the presence of kryptonite, the solution lies in getting out in the sun more as vitamin D deficiency may weaken muscles. The so-called 'sunshine vitamin' has long been known to play a role in bone strength. In experiments on mice, Australian researchers found that not getting enough vitamin D lowered the function of the mitochondria that power muscles.This likely reduced muscle function and performance. Further, the findings suggest that preventing vitamin D deficiencies in older adults may have the potential to help stave off age-related muscular degeneration.

It's all rosy for Saudi florists

TOURISM

Every spring, roses bloom in the western Saudi city of Taif, turning pockets of the kingdom's vast desert landscape a vivid and fragrant pink. In April, they are harvested for the essential oil used to cleanse the outer walls of the sacred Kaaba, the cubic structure in the holy city of Mecca towards which Muslims around the world pray. This year, the harvest falls during the holy fasting month of Ramadan, which observant Muslims devote to prayer and reflection. Workers at the Bin Salman farm tend rose bushes and pick tens of thousands of flowers each day to produce rose water and oil, also prized components in the cosmetic and culinary industries. The perfumed oil has become popular among the millions of Muslims who visit the kingdom every year for pilgrimages. The oil is extracted with a large syringe after the distillation process to fill different-sized vials, the smallest going for 400 Saudi riyals ($106).

CARROT AND STICK

Free eggs, discount coupons dispel vaccine hesitancy more than strict rules in China

HEALTH

TAIPEI: China's success at controlling the coronavirus outbreak has resulted in a population that has seemed almost reluctant to get vaccinated. So it is accelerating its inoculation campaign by offering incentives — free eggs, store coupons and discounts on groceries and merchandise — to those getting a shot.

Good news. Starting from today, residents 60 years old and above who have gotten their first shot are eligible for five 'jin' (2.5 kg) of eggs. First come, first serve," said a poster by a city-run health center in Beijing. Till now, in major cities like Shanghai and Beijing, the government has relied mostly on sustained messaging and freebies to convince people to get vaccinated. Shopping malls have offered points at stores or coupons. A temple in Beijing offered free entry to anyone showing proof of vaccination. Shanghai is using buses in its campaign to set up mobile vaccination points. And then there are the free eggs.

After a slow start, China is now giving millions of shots a day. On March 26 alone, it administered 6.1 million shots. A top government doctor, Zhong Nanshan, has announced a June goal of vaccinating 560 million of the country's 1.4 billion people.

The challenge lies partly in the sheer scale of the effort and the need to convince a population that currently feels safe from infections.

> *I got vaccinated so that I no longer need approval to leave campus. I became concerned after the university put up posters denouncing a student who left campus without permission last winter*
> A beneficiary

When patients first showed up at hospitals in Wuhan in late 2019 with fevers, coughs and breathing difficulties, the government locked down the city and others in Hubei province for more than two months starting in January 2020. Wuhan later became known as the epicenter of the outbreak.

Since then, China has controlled the virus through stringent border controls and quick lockdowns whenever new outbreaks crop up. People can dine out in restaurants and the risk of infection is low, so many don't seem to be in a hurry to get the vaccine.

"I think everyone has a sense of security and comfort, and there's no big rush to get vaccinated unless you are asked to do so," said Helen Chen, a health care specialist at a market research firm in Shanghai.

The five vaccines currently being used in China have an efficacy range of 50.7% to 79.3%, based on what the companies have said. That doesn't mean they have no value — most experts say that anything above 50% is useful getting the pandemic under control, along with preventing hospitalizations and deaths.

China may need to vaccinate at least 1 billion people, said Wang Huaqing, a top immunology official with China's Center for Disease Control, in an interview with state media this week. As of early April, roughly 34 million people had received two shots and about 65 million got one dose.

Residents in traditional costumes leave from the Forbidden City with bagfuls of goodies after free vaccinations in Beijing | AP

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17•04•2021
SATURDAY

Vikrant Rona's release date out

PG 4

DAY'S DIARY

Snooker invented

On this day in 1875, the game of snooker was invented by Sir Neville Francis Fitzgerald Chamberlain, a British Army officer in Jubbulpore, India

THE GAME

It arose as a game for soldiers. The game is played with 22 balls, made up of one white ball (the cue ball); 15 red balls, valued at one point each. Players first try to pocket the red then the non-red balls

VARIATIONS

There were many other variations of pool games being played in 1875. Some of them include Pool, Pyramid, Russian Pool and Bar Biliards

CHAMPIONSHIP

The First World Snooker Championship was held in 1927. Derbyshire player Joe Davis was the first champion, and won all 15 editions of the tournament he entered

A WORLD FULL OF SUNSHINE

Rappers EmmJee and Gubbi

To beat the Covid-19 blues with some happy tunes, Rapper EmmJee and Rapper Gubbi bring out their second collaboration *Hongirana*

MONIKA MONALISA

Vibrant colours, a peppy tune and happy lyrics — *Hongirana*, by Rapper EmmJee and Rapper Gubbi is a slice of life rap song that is seemingly the new anthem for the city, in these dark times.

Hongirana, which translates to a ray of hope, is made of all things positive, says Madura Gowda aka EmmJee, elaborating on their second collaboration. "Gubbi and I are such hopeful and inspired individuals that the track also gives out a happy vibe and people can feel it in the song," she explains, adding that their only aim is to spread positivity as the second wave of the coronavirus grips the city.

The song is not a lockdown baby; it was written in 2017, which they finally decided to take it ahead in the current lockdown. "We had worked on it before but we always thought we could do better with the production. For instance, we had thought we would shoot some inspirational stories for the video, but somehow never went ahead with that plan. Instead, the video is fun and simple," shares Gowda.

The video, which was shot in JP Nagar and Bellandur area, has every bit of Bengaluru in it for people to connect. "I think Gubbi and I are such hardcore Bengalureans that people can connect to us easily," she laughs. The video has graffiti backdrops and overbridges of Bengaluru that instantly draw the hearts of Bengalureans to it. Despite no planned choreography, Gowda reminisces the fun time during the shoot.

Gubbi concurs, adding that the video is full of energy owing to the vibrant colours used, which was Gowda's idea, thanks to her fashion background. The rapper also points out that they tried to experiment with the arrangement too. 'The song has a lot of violin tune to it, which is usually not used for a rap song. But I am glad that it worked out well," says Gubbi.

The song translates to a ray of hope filled with positivity,
– Madura Gowda
Rapper

Monika Manchanda, a city-based food writer and consultant, co-founder and chief culinary officer at LiveAltLife, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are.

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in CE on Monday. The first prize winner this week will also receive a complimentary voucher code (worth ₹2,500) from Chowman which can be redeemed from all its Bengaluru outlets **

QUESTIONS

1. This is a dish that India loves and variations exist throughout the country. Unlike the rest of the country, we eat it for breakfast! And the best of the place runs out of it by 10 am in the morning! Which is this dish? Bonus points for getting the place name right.
2. An all-new addition to the Bangalore craft beer scene, is a new brewery that is probably the world's largest brewery. What is it named? Bonus points for getting the size right.
3. A pani puri with transparent yet pungent and spicy water and, believe me or not, loaded, with veggies. What are we talking about?

**Conditions apply

For more food-related stories and recipes, turn to page 3.

Laughing it away!

Singer Vasu Dixit has a very crisp story to tell his followers! He has posted a video of a short song based on laughter and human emotions. Accompanying the song is a soothing tune of guitar. Want to know what makes him laugh? Watch the video on his Instagram account.

Kannada short film, *Gutrugooooo* brings out the unusual relationship between a professor and a sex worker

LESSON FOR LIFE

EXPRESS FEATURES

A still from the movie

On his first day as a psychology professor at a new university, Dr Shyam Prasad, starts off on the wrong foot with his students. Realising his error, he attempts to familiarise himself with the students. As an ice-breaking exercise, he suggests that the students share an embarrassing experience. Met with stony silence, he volunteers. Thus begins the story of his meeting with a sex worker a few years ago.

Released on the YouTube channel Depthofthoughts filmhouse on March 26, *Gutrugooooo* has clocked in 86,648 views. Shooting for the 15-minute film began in March last year, but the lockdown threw a spanner in the works.

"The trigger for the story was a message I received on WhatsApp, which I later improvised and shaped into the current script," says Kishan Badarinath, who wrote, edited and directed the film.

The techie-turned-filmmaker says that he wanted to try his hand at something that was challenging for him as a director. "We shot with Red Gemini to create a scene in a brothel and a university, which are two different worlds. It was challenging and exciting at the same time. We wanted the brothel portion lit partially for the ambience and also experimented with long takes to get best out of the actors' performances," he says.

Actor Sridhar KS plays the professor, while the role of the sex worker, Nayana, is played by Ganavi Laxman. "While writing the script we were sure about Sridhar sir for the professor's part, but we had to brainstorm a bit for the part of Nayana because we wanted to get an actor whom the audience would not have expected in that role," says Badarinath. After Laxman's girl-next-door role in the teleserial *Magalu Janaki*, she fit the role perfectly, he adds.

One question that he is often asked is the meaning of the film's name. Not revealing much, Badarinath hints that the name connects the beginning of the film with the end. "I would like the audience to discover it for themselves and trust me, they won't be disappointed. Also, I thought it would be unique to have a sound as an identity."

The movie has won the Jury Special Award in Europe Film Festival UK (November 2020), Port Blair International Film Festival (December 2020) and honourable mention at Beyond Earth film festival season 7 (2021).

Kishan Badarinath

CITY READ

Emerging Brand of the Year award goes to...

Boldfit, a digital-first company, specialising in health and fitness products, has won 'Emerging Brand of the Year' award at the Amazon Smbhav Summit 2021, India. Boldfit specialises in selling personal health and fitness products in categories like fitness, yoga, nutrition, and health and wellness . Pallav Bihani founder of Boldfit, says, "The need of the hour is unparalleled and accessible fitness. Quality and personalisation were only born as the aftermath. The goal had always been to make health and fitness available to anyone and that has been the driving force for all that we do."

The Mexican Festival

This summer, Foodhall is celebrating the culinary traditions of Mexican cuisine with Fiesta Mexicana. The food festival will celebrate the flavours of Mexico with a wide range of ingredients, live stations, baked meals, snack, and more throughout this month. The culinary spread also offers a Mango Mela— featuring raw mango and avocado that originated in Mexico — which includes raw mango salsa, mango fruit platter, badami mangoes wedges and more.

WATCH LIST

THE GREAT INDIAN KITCHEN (MALAYALAM)

Streaming on: Amazon Prime Video

Like any Indian girl, the bride of The Great Indian Kitchen moves into her husband's house prepared to adapt to their customs and make it her home. Her husband and his parents do love and care for her. But problems arise when her mother-in-law has to be away. She struggles to face the seemingly endless household chores, differences in opinion and unfamiliar traditions.

Cast: Nimisha Sajayan, Suraj Venjaramoodu

THIS IS A ROBBERY (ENGLISH)

Streaming on: Netflix

This Is a Robbery is a docu series that revolves around the historic art theft at Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. The four-part series outlines the circumstances surrounding the heist of 13 items from the museum, which includes the works from legendary artists like Rembrandt, Vermeer, Manet, and Degas. The series captures the after-effects of history's most confounding heist by revealing the thoughts of the museum director, law enforcement agencies among others. The director has attempted to work on the fallout, by collating stories from witnesses, journalists and investigators.

ROOHI (HINDI)

Streaming on: Netflix

Two small-town men encounter Roohi who lives with dual personalities. A good one and an evil one. While one falls in love with the good side of Roohi, the other falls in love with the evil side of Roohi. The horror comedy story explores the love triangle peppered with strange and crazy situations. Rajkumar Rao yet again flaunts his comedy skills with ease, and Roohi is just tailor made from some suspenseful turn of events that you should definitely watch out for.

Cast: Rajkumar Rao, Janhavi Kapoor, Varun Sharma

AJEEB DAASTAANS (HINDI)

Streaming on: Netflix

Fan of watching anthologies? Then Ajeeb Daastaans should be on your weekend watch list. The anthology is a combination of four short stories centred around women dealing with different phases of societal issues like prejudice, friendship, entitlements and more. The anthology attempts to explore the complicated human relationships and how each one with them pan out in this unusual storytelling format.

Cast: Aditi Rao Hydari, Fatima Sana Shaikh

Hearing Care For All
Causes of Hearing Loss
Pure 312 X
Pure Charge&Go X
Silk X
Styletto X
One of the world's smallest hearing aids
Natural ageing process
Exposure o loud or constant Noise
Illness or complication at birth
Heredity / congenital causes
FREE HEARING TEST
20th March to 31st March 2021.
FREE Hearing Test
FREE Trials of Latest Hearing aids
Exciting Exchange Offers on upgrade
1 Year Battery Free On Selected Models
4 Years Warranty On Selected Model
EMI
Easy & Low Cost EMI
Home Visit Available Chargeable Rs. 500
Repairs of any other Other brands also available
AANVII HEARING SOLUTIONS Pvt.Ltd
The Largest Chain of Best Sound Centers in INDIA
Centers Located at Mumbai, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Nagpur & Pune

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

FOLK STYLE

Banyan Tree's Teen Prahar is presenting a hybrid musical format with folk tunes of Rajasthan. Manganiyar singer Mame Khan, along with percussionists Pt. Anindo Chatterjee, Pt. Bhawani Shankar, will feature in the concert. The event is also available online.
When: April 17, 5pm
Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall
Tickets: bookmyshow.com

MANGO MANIA

Khandani Rajdhani brings their famous Aamlicious Food Festival this year. The annual feast will be held till May 31, 2021, across all Khandani Rajdhani outlets in Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad. On the menu are aamras, aamrakhand, mango raita kachi kairi ring dhokla, ker sangri, mango pulao and mango jalebi.

ART AND CRAFT

Textiles and carpet manufactures, Cottage Craft Industries is organisng a Ugadi expo of Indian handicrafts and handlooms. The expo will include silk and cotton sarees, silk stoles, pashmina shawls, handloom fabrics, hand-knotted carpets, brass, wood and marble handicrafts, jewellery, paintings, pottery, and more. **When:** Till April 18
Where: Shubharam complex, MG Road

MUSIC SUMMER CAMP

Subramaniam Academy of Performing Arts (SaPa) will be starting an interactive online course in music for kids of all age groups. The online course includes bhajans, shlokas, pop music, among other for kids to experience music from the safety of their homes. Fee: ₹2,000
When: Apr 15- 22
Details: SaPa India website

Enjoy the IPL match with a wide range of beverages and starters, including cocktails, mocktails, popcorn and more. WHEN: Till May 30 WHERE: R Bar, Renaissance Race Course Road

COLD BREW FEST

Starbucks has announced the Cold Brew Fest that will be on till April 11. Select variants like Cold Brew Black, Nitro Cold Brew Black, Vegan Cold Brew, Nitro Vegan Cold Brew, Cold Brew with Ginger Ale, Nitro Cold Brew with Ginger Ale and more will be **available at** special prices of ₹250 for the Cold Brew range and ₹300 for the Nitro Cold Brew range (including taxes).

Award function

Sree Ramaseva Mandali Trust is organising an award ceremony to confer the SV Narayanaswamy Rao National Award to renowned vocalist Vidwan Madurai TN Seshagopalan.
When: May 1
Where: Gayana Samaja Auditorium, KR Road
Details: 9886088869

Decor collection

The Yellow Dwelling, a contemporary sustainable furnishing and décor expert, is introducing a collection of cushions, curtains, teepee tents and more for kids.
Where: The Yellow Dwelling stores, HSR Layout
Details: 96062 46004

IPL Feast

Enjoy a spread of special menu curated by Chef Vikas Seth for the cricket fans. The menu includes herb tossed epazote mushrooms, grilled zucchini and non-vegetarian specialties like cilantro marinated grilled shrimp and smoky chipotle chicken and exciting beverages.
Where: Sanchez, UB City & Indiranagar
When: Till May 30, 11am onwards

Fashion Expo

Kala Silk Cotton Expo is organising an exhibition displaying products of weavers, artisans and craftsmen from Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other states. The exhibition will feature ethnic wear ranging from home linen to Kancheepuram materials and more. **When:** Till April 22 **Where:** Five O Gallery, Vijayanagar **Details:** 9391628516

Summer treats

Made with fresh fruits and seasonal vegetables, these ice creams are made just for your pets to help them cope with the heat. To order: Call 9820009456 or visit harleyscorner.in

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

PATRANI MACHHI

- **Pomfret:** 8 fillets, each 2 in X 1 in
- **Coconut:** half
- **Cumin powdr:** 1 heaped tsp
- **Green chillies:** 6
- **Coriander leaves:** , 1/2 cup
- **Garlic:** 10 cloves
- **Vinegar**
- **Banana leaves**
- **String**

METHOD

- Grind the scraped coconut, cumin powder, green chillies, coriander leaves and garlic to a smooth paste. Add very little water and a dash of vinegar while grinding.
- Cut three banana leaves big enough to make eight individual packets for the fish.
- Place the fish fillets on the leaves, apply the paste and wrap into packets.
- Secure each packet with a string and marinate for 15 minutes.
- Steam for six minutes, turning the packets over midway. **— Laxmi, Hyderabad**

SOUND BOARD

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE, LIVE!

Episodes from this podcast offers conversations between artist and audience—intimate stories about early inspirations, the creative process and what they've learned along the way.
- On Spotify

GRIEFCAST

We've all probably experienced what it's like to lose someone, and it's not easy dealing with grief and death. In this podcast, host Cariad Lloyd interviews comedians and funny folk about grief, loss and the unique weirdness of that time.
- On Apple Podcasts

SMARTLESS

SmartLess with Jason Bateman, Sean Hayes and Will Arnett is a podcast that connects and unites people from all walks of life to learn about shared experiences through thoughtful dialogue and organic hilarity.
- On Spotify

DARKNET DIARIES

Explore true stories of the dark side of the Internet with host Jack Rhysider as he takes you on a journey through the chilling world of hacking, data breaches, and cyber crime.
- On Apple Podcasts

HOW I BUILT THIS WITH GUY RAZ

Journalist Guy Raz dives into the stories behind some of the world's best-known companies. How I Built This weaves a narrative journey about innovators, entrepreneurs and idealists—and the movements they built.
- On Apple Podcasts

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

SAARATHI

Rukmini is forcefully taken hostage by her enemy, Pratap, who wants to marry her. When Raja, her lover and a rickshaw driver by profession, finds out, he sets out for her hometown to rescue her.
- Cast: Darshan, Deepa Sannidhi, R Sarathkumar

HUDUGARU

Prabhu, Chandru and Siddesh aspire to have a government job and try to lead a simple lifestyle. But their lives change dramatically when they attempt to unite two lovers.
- Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Yogesh, Srinagar Kitty

HUBLI

A man, who is a terror to antisocial elements, loses his memory. He is chased by a policeman, who regards him as a terrorist.
- Cast: Sudeep, Rakshita

LOVELY

Mahadevan does not believe in love and hates the word, but his daughter Nivedha loves Chandru. In order to get his consent, the couple comes up with an intricate plan and executes it.
- Cast: Malavika, Monal, Vivek, Karthik, Manivannan

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 THE ANCIENT, EARTH-FRIENDLY WISDOM OF MONGOLIAN NOMADS BY KHULAN BATKHUYAG

There's a lot we can learn from Mongolian nomads about how to survive in the years to come, says environmental activist Khulan Batkhuyag. There's wisdom here for all of us on how to live more minimally, sustainably and in harmony with Mother Nature.

2 HOW TO KNOW IF IT'S TIME TO CHANGE CAREERS BY CHIEH HUANG

Quitting your job can be scary, but sometimes it's the best thing you can do for your career, says entrepreneur Chieh Huang. He shares how to know when it's time to move on — and what can you do to prepare.

3 LEARN TO READ CHINESE...WITH EASE BY SHAOLAN

For foreigners, learning to speak Chinese is a hard task. But learning to read the beautiful, often complex characters of the written language may be less difficult. ShaoLan walks through a simple lesson in recognising ideas behind the characters and their meaning — building from a few simple forms to more complex concepts. Call it Chineasy.

4 ZOMBIE ROACHES AND OTHER PARASITE TALES BY ED YONG

In this fascinating, hilarious and ever-so-slightly creepy talk, science writer Ed Yong tells the story of his favourite parasites — animals and organisms that live on the bodies (and brains!) of other organisms, causing them to do their bidding. Do humans have them too? Maybe ...

5 THE WORK THAT MAKES ALL OTHER WORK POSSIBLE BY AI-JEN POO

Domestic workers are entrusted with the most precious aspects of people's lives — they're the nannies, the elder-care workers and the house cleaners who do the work that makes all other work possible. In this sensational talk, activist Ai-Jen Poo shares her efforts to secure equal rights and fair wages for domestic workers.

FIT BIT

PADMA SARVANGASANA

(LOTUS IN SHOULDER STAND POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'Padma' means lotus, 'Sarvanga' means shoulder, and 'asana' means pose. It is an advanced inversion, combination pose where the legs are brought into Padmasana when the whole body is in Sarvangasana. It is not so easy but one can get into this asana with consistent efforts. All the body parts are benefited. This helps to alleviate fatigue while relaxing the brain. These calming benefits are thought to help those suffering from insomnia, stress or mild depression. It is associated with the Visuddha (throat) Chakra. This posture can stimulate and balance this energy centre while bringing about better communication and creativity.

STEPS

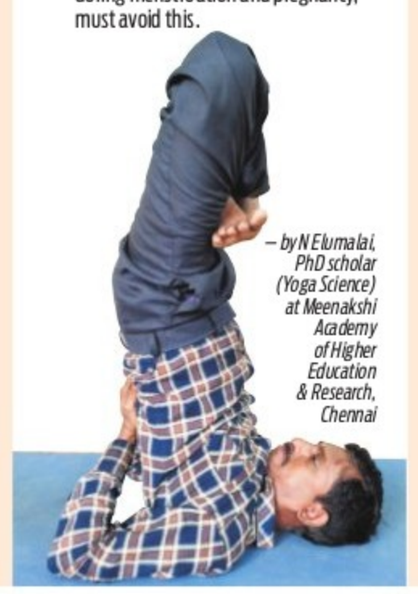
- Get into Sarvangasana.
- Now, fold your right leg at the knee and bring your right foot to rest on top of your left thigh.
- Stay in this pose, which is called Ardha Padma Sarvangasana, for a few breaths.
- Now, fold your left leg at the knee and bring the left foot to rest on your right thigh to get into full Padma Sarvangasana.
- Bring your folded legs in front of your head and this is the final pose.
- Make sure the chin is pressed firmly to the sternum, forming Jalandhar Bandha.
- The hip joints should be angled at 90 degrees.
- Hold this pose for 30 seconds or for as long as you can to derive maximum benefits.
- Then, lie down on your back and relax in the Corpse Pose or Shavasana.
- Catch your breath and change the legs to practise the pose again.
- You can practise this pose for three to four rounds.

BENEFITS

- Helps improve balance.
- Stimulates the thyroid gland.
- Improves blood circulation, respiration and digestion.
- Strengthens the reproductive, nervous and hormonal systems.
- Strengthens the immune system.
- Activates the parathyroid glands to help bone growth.

LIMITATIONS

- Practise with caution as you or under the supervision of a yoga expert.
- People with knee injuries, enlarged thyroid, liver or spleen, spondylitis, slipped disc, high blood pressure, thrombosis, blood impurity, women during menstruation and pregnancy, must avoid this.



— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

MUNDINA NILDANA (Kannada)

The film takes you along on the journeys of three young professionals who are on the road to achieve their dreams and goals. In the process they make many discoveries about themselves and learn about relationships, friendship and love.

Cast: Praveen Tej, Radhika Narayan, Ananya Kashyap
- Watch on: Netflix

BOMBAY BEGUMS (Hindi, series)

Five ambitious women from various walks of life navigate dreams, desires and disappointments in modern-day Mumbai.

Cast: Pooja Bhatt, Plabita Borthakur, Shahana Goswami, Amruta Subhash, Aadhya Anand
- Watch on: Netflix

JOJI (Malayalam)

An engineering dropout and the youngest son of a rich family lives with his aspirations of becoming super wealthy. Driven by greed and blind ambition, he decides to execute his plans following an unexpected event in the family.

Cast: Fahadh Faasil, Dileesh Pothan, Unnimaya Prasad, Baburaj
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

THE PRIEST (Malayalam)

A priest and a police officer are trying to solve a set of mysterious suicides. As their investigation closes in, they discover another crime with even farther-reaching consequences.

Cast: Mammootty, Nikhila Varma, Manju Warrier
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

HELLO CHARLIE (Hindi)

Charlie, a simple pizza delivery boy, finds himself driving his uncle's truck, Girnaar Express, to deliver a gorilla from Mumbai to the jetty at Diu. Charlie is unaware that the gorilla is disguised business tycoon MD Makwana who is on the run after committing a multi crore scam.

Cast: Aadar Jain, Jackie Shroff, Siddhant Kapoor, Elnaaz Norouzi, Shloka Pandit
- Watch on: Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

YUVARATNA (Kannada)

A reputed college that is now on the verge of closing due to the privatisation of the education system fights for survival.

Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Sayyeshaa, Kavya Shetty, Sonu
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

THE BIG BULL (Hindi)

The story of the film is based on real events of financial market that took place between 1990 and 2000 involving Harshad Mehta and his financial crimes.

Cast: Abhishek Bachchan, Nikita Dutta, Ileana D'Cruz, Sohum Shah
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

ENGLISH

THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAVID COPPERFIELD

The life of David Copperfield from childhood to maturity, with his own adventures and the web of friends and enemies he meets along his way.

Cast: Dev Patel, Tilda Swinton, Hugh Laurie, Peter Capaldi
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

THE NEW MUTANTS

Five teenage mutants — Mirage, Wolfsbane, Cannonball, Sunspot and Magik -- undergo treatments at a secret institution that will cure them of their dangerous powers. Invited by Dr. Cecilia Reyes to share their stories, their memories soon turn into terrifying realities as they start to question why they're being held and who's trying to destroy them.

Cast: Anya Taylor-Joy, Maisie Williams, Blu Hunt, Charlie Heaton
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

RUN

Chloe was raised by her mother Diane in total isolation. Her mother has totally controlled her since she was born, but now as a teenager Chloe is starting to explore her mother's secrets.

Cast: Sarah Paulson, Kiera Allen, Onalee Ames, Sara Sohn
- Watch on: Netflix

THEM (Series)

A black family moves from North Carolina to an all-white Los Angeles neighbourhood in 1953, where their idyllic home becomes ground zero for malevolent forces.

Cast: Deborah Ayorinde, Alison Pill, Bashy, Shahadi Wright Joseph
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

SUBSCRIPTION
Prime Video: ₹ 129 per month
Disney+Hotstar: ₹ 399 per year
Netflix: ₹ 199 per month

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

RUBINATIONS
Rubi Chakravarti
Writer, actor and funny girl

I HAVE to swim through dark waters and under-ground abysses to be able to come up and take a gulp of oxygen. Even though I have stopped watching news channels (which my ghoul of a husband has on 24/7), I still manage to hear a news anchor here and there, which gives me the heebie-jeebies!

There should be a law against frightening people as two things happen: Either they sit at home and quiver with fear, or put on their bravado face and indulge in reckless behavior. Either way, none of the above mentioned modus operandi is good for one's health or the economy.

Though my doctor has assured me that having a truckload of anti-bodies allows me to tentatively venture out (with all safety protocols in place of course), and that getting infected with the deadly Cardi-V for the next two months is virtually impossible, I still have to quell my rapidly beating heart.

Sigh! With all the gory information (some factual and others a figment of some very sick minds) floating around in cyber space, it's hard to separate the 'riff from the raff'! But I never fail to guffaw every time my good friend/doctor rolls her eyes at me and states: "Please don't confuse my medical degree with your WhatsApp one". True dat lady!

As Imi and I lunched at The Zen at The Leela Palace on the occasion of Thai Songkran (ever notice how Agrarian communities have similar celebrations the world over?), we rued the fact that literally, we were

From left: Goofing around with Anil Dev, Praveen Chandra, Alka Dev and Sonalika Pawar

the only ones there except for another table, or two. It was a crying shame because their Expat chef, Piched, conjured up some exquisite Thai delicacies for us. The strange thing is that nothing has changed. Except for (in short supply) vaccines and the health workers doing a marvellous job at now 'curing' the afflicted, nothing has changed. We are still in the middle of a pandemic and the spike is nobody's fault but ours. Irresponsible behavior with dismal safety protocols rule the day. We are so desperate to go back to being 'normal' that at most times one couldn't differentiate between the highfalutin and the harebrained!

It's really fine to do what is combatable for one, but the pontification gets to me! The very same people (aged venerable ones I may add), who threw caution to the winds and attended big launches and events (some with over 900 people) are now cloistered at home and not allowing even a cat to enter their homes, but are still pontificating left right and center!

Has Covid-19 been eradicated that everyone was throwing caution to the winds? I am met with bizarre opinions, the most idiotic one being that I was so careful, but still got infected! I still maintain that if one's immunity and co-morbidity comes into play, then one can get infected by the very same people who like to live dangerously. Not fair!

I got a taste of the high that one feels while 'living dangerously' when I 'safely' had a raucous lunch with other co-survivors and co-vaccinated. I was invited by Sonalika Pawar to lunch with friends at the newest hotspot in town, Gawky Goose. I remember not going to the launch party as there would be a gazillion people and there were! Just a few weeks later with the cases spiking, we were the only people in this huge beautiful space with the most amazing food and cocktails. Well not to be the one to let this opportunity pass, plus meeting up with my friends that I hadn't seen in months, we exchanged stories, laughed, ate and drank till our jaws ached.

I hate to keep saying I told you so, but for the short-sightedness of some people, we are facing a lockdown situation again. This time we are locked and paralyzed with fear. Life as we knew it will have to change for us to survive.

Offering scrumptious delicacies, these restaurants in Bengaluru have a wide range of culinary treats for you to savour with family and friends

Year-round favourites this RAMADAN

ASLAM GAFOOR

THE holy month of Ramadan is well under way, and here is our round-up of restaurants in namma Bengaluru offering scrumptious Iftar delicacies all through the month, which you can savour at the restaurant or in the comfort of your home with family and friends.

The Den Bengaluru (95136 77272) is delivering Ramadan street specials with options of two festive boxes (Rs.1000 AI onwards) curated by executive chef Kapil Dubey and team. Traditional flavours inspired by India's famous food lanes include Haleem, Idiyappam with Seekh Kebab, Gurda Kaleji, Kacche Gosht ki Biryani and Kesar Phirni.

Executive chef Sandip Narang's Flavours of Iftar at the Taj West End (98998 47349) includes tasty sweets and savouries to indulge with family and friends at the 24-hour international eatery Machan. The hearty dishes (Rs.700+ onwards) on the menu are Pepper Lamb Chops, Iranian Grilled Chicken, Nalli Nihari, Biryani, Semiyaan Kheer, Jalebi, Rooh Afza Sherbet and Kemia Dates.

The culinary team at Oakwood Premier Prestige (080 22348888) led by executive chef Altamsh Patel brings you a slice of Bombay from Mohammed Ali Road from 6-11 pm. Discover centuries-old recipes of Mughlai food (Rs. 750+ per person) such as Jubaan Shorba, Gurda Kaleja Masala Pav, Sanju Baba Chicken, Roti pe Bhuni Boti, Ghost Tawa Pulao, Noorani Kulfi Faluda and Zafrani Phirni.

Executive chef Sandeep Kalra's festive a-la-carte dishes (Rs.450+ onwards) and set menu's (Rs.2,700+ onwards for two) at The Ritz-Carlton (97410 35124) will be available for delivery or takeaway at The Market. The freshly prepared celebratory dishes includes Imli Wale Chatpate Tandoori Aloo, Seekh Kebab, Tandoori Raan, Murgh Musallam, Haleem, Kache Gosht Biryani, Khameeri Naan, Phirni and Turkish Baklava.

At the Conrad, Bengaluru (88844 28234), you can celebrate the joyful togetherness of Iftar with executive chef Praveen Shetty's menu available for takeaway. The a-la-carte dishes (Rs.450+ onwards) and combos (Rs.3500+ onwards) include Kebabs, Mezzes, Nalli Nihari, Awadhi Gosht, Dum Aloo Kashmiri, Awadhi Biryani, Dates, Phirni and Badam Halwa.

Seekh Kebab

Bibi Ka Murgh Pulao

Mini Samosas

Malpua Rabdi

You can also celebrate the spirit of togetherness at the Shangri-La Hotel, Bengaluru (080 4512 6100) with a special menu. Executive chef Gagandeep Singh Sawhney's grand Iftar at B Café includes dishes (Rs.450+ onwards) such as Arabic Mezze, Hyderabadi Keema Samosa, Gosht Haleem and Kesar Phirni. These are also available in set menu's (Rs.2000+ onwards) for dine-in or takeaway with the addition of smoky kebabs, aromatic biryanis, fresh fruits and dates.

ITC Gardenia (080 22119898) and ITC Windsor (080 61401123) have three curated offerings for takeaway and online orders this holy month. Ruhaniyat by Gourmet Couch (Rs.3250+ onwards for two) includes signature preparations like Haleem, Nihari, Bibi ka Murgh Pulao, Dal Bukhara, Seviyan ka Muzaffar with Khajoor and juice. Then there is the Iftaari with Biryani and Pulao collection (Rs.1800+ onwards for two) served with Murgh Shammi Kebab, Raita and Gulab Jamuns. And, if you're looking for gifting options, then you could consider signature Eid hampers curated by Nutmeg - The Gourmet Shop.

The flavours of Ramadan at the Grand Mercure Bengaluru Gopalan Mall (95132 89926) takes you on a culinary journey across India from Mohammed Ali Road and Bohri Mohalla to the Nizami kitchens of Hyderabad and Moplah favourites from Malabar. Executive chef Suvaranjan Banerjee's indulgent high-tea (Rs.500+ onwards) at La Utsav, for dine-in or takeaway, includes assorted Pakodas, Irani Mutton Samosa, Kheema Pav, Hyderabadi Biryani, Haleem, Kebab, Kozhi Pathiri, Kesari Phirni and Masala Chai with Osmania cookies.

The festive dishes (Rs.245+ onwards) by award-winning chef Vikas Seth at Hopshaus (88619 24449) brewery includes crisp and flaky Kaghzi Keema Samosa, Dahi Ke Kebab and lip-smacking Hopshaus Style Shahi Tukda.

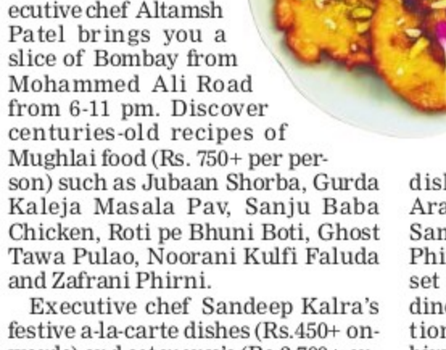
While at Akshay Luthria's Street Storyss (98109 46339) the Ramadan menu comes with a delicious, all-vegetarian twist. There is Corn Haleem with Crisp Plantain Chips, Kathal Moti Biryani with Mirch Salan, Shakshuka with Tofu Croquettes and Spinach, Khubani Ka Meetha and Rooh Afza Pina Colada.

Experience the festive magic with delectable culinary offerings from Novotel Bengaluru Outer Ring Road (95388 12348) in the comfort of your home or at The Square. The wholesome dining experience includes Khoya Khumani ka Kebab, Kacche Gosht Ki Dum Biryani, Sheermal, Kalonji Ka Baingan, Seviyan ka Muzaffar and Kesari Phirni.

You can satiate your cravings for Iftar food at Aloft Bengaluru Cessna Business Park (88844 52271) with a range of traditional festival delicacies such as Mutton Shami Kabab, Murgh Reshmi Kebab, Haleem, Nihari, Biryanis, Kabuli Pulao and Sheer Khurma. The set menus are priced at Rs 1,100+ and available from 7 pm onwards.

With a vast culinary repertoire of the month's specials and some year-round favourites from across India, this Ramadan promises to be one you will remember for a long time to come.

The author is a Bengaluru-based hospitality professional, food lover and travel enthusiast



GUNJAN PAL

Setting up a Home Bar

IN this times of pandemic, everyone needs to keep calm and carry on. And what better than your very own home bar! Who says you have to exit the comfort of your home and make that perilous trek to the nearest watering hole, when you can easily set up your own bar space to satisfy your every liquid dream!

The first item to check off your list when curating your own swag bar setup has to be the glassware! Invest in some key elements like pint, shot, wine, martini and champagne glasses (if you are on a budget, I recommend choosing the glassware of your liquor of choice) and some great stirrers, muddlers, cocktail spoons, a good shaker, strainer, ice moulds and for the more enlightened beverage lover, some bar mats, garnishing tools and maybe even a monogrammed bar towel or two.

Okay, step one done? Great. Now, the fun part -- the booze. Always select some premium liquors as well as some decent liqueurs and mixers for a bar worthy cocktail experience in your living room. Get some A grade gin, vodka, whiskey or tequila – or all of them, and keep them all stocked up and ready to pour. Invest in some basic liqueurs, like a coffee based one, an orange one, and some vermouth just to jazz up any boring basic drink.

An assortment of mixers is always a safe bet, and I prefer having some citrus based ones for maximum versatility -- some orange juice, lemon and lime juice, and some great bitters can really do wonders for you. Keeping some basic mixers like cola, tonic water, soda, and packaged juices is also a good step to making that

cocktail experience of your dreams, work in your home space.

Another way to add some pizazz to your home-made concoctions is to stock up on some good garnishes. My garnishes of choice include some maraschino cherries, oranges, lemons, or even limes. Some other great go-to's are olives, cinnamon, whipped cream, mint and cocktail onions. Used with some imagination (and a lot of good taste) these can really elevate your drinks.

If you're looking to impress, why not go the extra mile with some customized straws or napkins? Some drink-holders can also be a good way to up your panache.

However, to truly make some spectacular home cocktails, it is worthwhile to invest in some Grade A equipment like a storage cooler, a wine cooler, a kegerator (to chill them kegs!) and a swing-door back bar cooler. A nice glass rack or holder can also really class up your game. Lastly, always make sure you provide your guests some bar-friendly snacks like mixed nuts or chips and dip. You need to line that tummy before you get the night started, after all! Just follow these tips and you are good to go.

Head Mixologist – Azure Hospitality, which owns brands Sly Granny, Mamagoto, Foxtrot, Dhaba

EVENTS

'Match'making

Looking for exciting beverage options to experience IPL on the big screen? Hard Rock Cafe's IPL menu has some options. The newly launched menu for the cricketing season includes long island iced tea, purple haze, raspberry lemonade pitchers and more.

Where: Hard Rock Cafe,
When: Till May 30

XPRESS FOCUS

Ramaiah Forays into Financial Services

(Left to right) Reshma Kodandaram, entrepreneur; Kodandaram, Director, Ramaiah Capital Pvt Ltd.; and A. Shidhara Murthy, Vice President, Ramaiah Capital Pvt Ltd. during the launch

M.S. Ramaiah Group has entered the financial services space with the launch of Ramaiah Capital Private Limited, a new age Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC). The new firm started commercial operations recently by handing over sanction letters to a few personal loan customers. The sanctions were generated through their digital lending platform "Finflux" in a paperless, fully digital mode wherein the customers' KYC verification, profiling, rating, and the underwriting were all done digitally in a short time.

The new company's tagline is ₹@click and their unique selling point is 'Fast, Affordable and Transparent Credit'. This is the first foray of the House of Ramaiah's into the financial services sector.

The company has a certificate of registration issued by the Reserve Bank of India in December 2020 as a Non-Deposit taking Non-Banking Financial Company Category II.

The company will be lending on a paperless digital platform by incorporating the latest technology in the Fintech Space.

They have tied up with Conflux Technologies Pvt Ltd, a city based Fintech Company which provides "Finflux", a digital lending platform encompassing loan sourcing, management as well as collection. It is a robust platform which enables loan origination both from desktop and mobile applications.

The company is also coming out with a mobile app through which customers can apply and get their loans disbursed seamlessly in a digital paperless mode from the comfort of their homes.

Ramaiah Capital aims to solve the fundamental problem of lack of access to simple, convenient and transparent credit, improve the lives of low and middle income households.

The company registered in 2019 is promoted by Kodandaram Ramaiah, son of late M.S.Ramaiah. He is a post graduate in plant sciences from the University of Idaho, USA.

He has been a successful entrepreneur with business interests in agro chemicals, hospitality, export trade, advertising, coffee cultivation and agri biotechnology. He is also the Director of Ramaiah Educational Institutions and advisor to Gokula Education Foundation.

The company's operations are headed by Sridhar Murthy, a veteran banker with more than 37 years of experience in lending and a retired General Manager from Bank of Baroda.

SMART ADS

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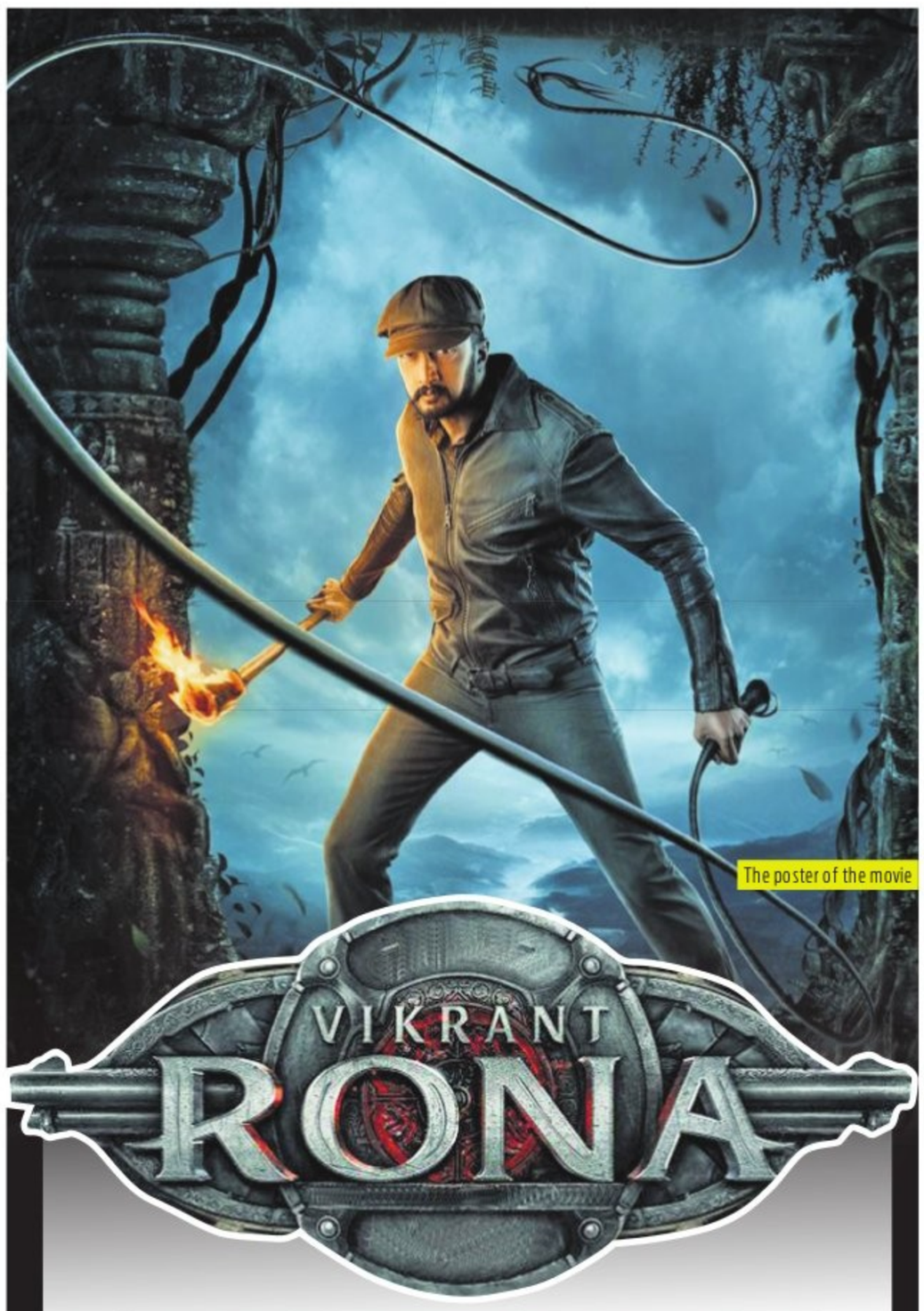


The poster of the movie

TO HIT SCREENS IN AUGUST WORLDWIDE

Yet another pan-India release, the action-adventure drama will be screened in 3D format

CE FEATURES

Sudeep's *Vikrant Rona* will be released in theatres on August 19. The Anup Bhandari directorial, produced by Shalini Arts, also features Nirup Bhandari and Neetha Ashok. The action-adventure will be released in the 3D format.

Vikrant Rona, which features Sudeep as a police officer, will be yet another pan-Indian release from the Kannada industry. In addition, the film is also likely to be released in 55 countries. Along with multiple Indian languages, it will be dubbed and released in French, Arabic, Spanish, Mandarin, and Russian. The team is currently focused on the dubbing.

The entire shooting of the film has been wrapped, except for a special song featuring Jacqueline Fernandes. The team had initially planned to shoot it in May, but the plan may undergo a change due to the ongoing Covid crisis.

Producer Manjunath Gowda says, "We are eager to present the world their new favourite hero, Vikrant Rona, in the language of their preference. The film is a visual spectacle and watching it on the big screens will be a relief for the audience who are battling the stress of a pandemic. We can't wait to entertain our viewers in the grandest way possible."

Director Anup Bhandari says, "I feel excited about the release announcement. The post-production work is going in full swing. Some of the best technicians are a part of our film and together we promise to give the audience one of the best visuals they have seen in the theatres." Vikrant Rona marks the first collaboration of both music director Ajaneesh B Loknath and cinematographer William David with Sudeep.

Meanwhile, Sudeep also has the Shiva Kartik directorial, *Kotigobba 3*, waiting for release. The makers are working on the release date, keeping the Covid-19 situation and 50 per cent theatre occupancy order in mind.

Protagonist carries movie on his shoulder

CE FEATURES

KRISHNA TALKIES

Cast: Ajay Rao, Apurva, Sindhu Loknath, Chikkanna, and Pramod Shetty

Director: Vijay Anand

RATING 3/5

The film revolves around a single-screen theatre, and triskaidekaphobia. Thirteen, the number often feared by most, poses as a series of threats with murders, death and accidents in the movie *Krishna Talkies*. It also draws a shroud of mystery on cine-goers with a balcony ticket bearing the number 13.

While watching the movie, a lot of questions will go through your mind. Is this a murder? If so, who is the killer? Or is there some paranormal element involved?

Ajay, a journalist, visiting his hometown in Mudigere, sets out to find the culprit, who is the reason behind the death of his best friend Suri (Chikkanna), and the reason behind the disappearance of Parimala (Sindhu Loknath).

He seeks all possible help from the local police. The strange occurrence of death, and mystery around the number 13, leads to a lot of investigations.

How Ajay goes about unraveling the truth and what his fate decides for him is the basis of the story. Krishna Talkies brims with all possible elements of mystery, thriller, horror drama, sprinkled with suspense. Director Vijay Anand, who has worn multiple hats for the film, takes credit for the story, screenplay writing, dialogues, lyrics and has to a certain extent managed to live up to its title.

Although the movie begins at a slow pace, the sense of horror on one end enthralls viewers, while their investigative mind runs at parallel.

The construction of this movie is not without flaws, but it is the protagonist, Ajay Rao, who makes this plot consistently interesting.

He takes us through some case studies, and the climax builds with a certain supernatural element that makes it believable. Though the investigation doesn't go in-depth, it is the follow-up of cases, and in different angles, which keeps the audience on the edge-of-the-seat.

The film, which moves with mostly dialogue-driven scenes, gets good support from the rest of the actors. With Apurva playing the love angle, she also becomes the starting point of the whole investigation. This well-suited ensemble also features Sindhu Loknath, Chikkanna, and Pramod Shetty among others in prominent roles. A film, with an intriguing premise, Ajay Rao is one reason to walk into *Krishna Talkies*.

Good and the bad co-exist in this ambiguous ANTHOLOGY

RAM VENKAT SRIKAR

AJEEB DAASTAANS

Cast: Fatima Sana Shaikh, Jaideep Ahlawat, Nushrratt Bharuccha, Konkona Sen Sharma, Aditi Rao Hydari, Shefali Shah

Director: Shashank Khaitan, Raj Mehta, Neeraj Ghaywan, Kayoze Irani

RATING 2.5/5

Karan Johar's segment in the 2013 anthology, Bombay Talkies, ends with the song, '*Ajeeb Daastan Hai Ye*', as a bewildered Dev (Randeep Hooda), who has just come out as a homosexual to his wife, sits, doubtful about his future. The song befits the fogginess of his situation, and with Karan Johar producing Ajeeb Daastans, a four-part anthology, you can see where the idea might have stemmed from. Translating to 'Weird Tales', Ajeeb Daastans has atypicality in its stories, although the degree varies from film to film. The common modus operandi seems to be a subversion of our expectations at the end, even if the effectiveness of this strategy wavers.

First in the order is Majnu, directed by Shashank Khaitan. From the title to dialogues to the hinterland setting, Majnu is all that we associate with a typical Bollywood film. Despite being the most formulaic of the four, this film has an air of tenderness that saves it from predictability, even if it isn't enough. Babloo bhaiyya (Jaideep Ahalwat), a local bigshot, is forced into marriage with a young Lipakshi (Fathima Sana Shaik), the daughter of an affluent politician. Expectedly, their relationship is a sinking ship... in a sense, like the film. When Babloo employs a budding college-graduate Raj (Armaan Ralhan), the son of his driver, this causes his wife to develop feelings for him, and things take the route of Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster.

There isn't much plot here, but Jaideep Ahalwat, who humanises the roughneck, Babloo, keeps the film afloat.

The director's intention with this film, oscillates between addressing bigotry among men and portraying longing for a companion. On his wedding night, Babloo states that he would not be able to love her as he has always loved someone else, but yet, expects her to remain loyal. The exchange about prejudice between the newlyweds right at the beginning establishes the film's theme and what follows feels purely functional. The twist ending is a cynical indictment of the male-dominated world the film is set in. The woman is a mere toy.

Incidentally, the second film, by Raj Mehta, is called Khilauna, and toys with the idea of a human's existence being as trivial as a plaything in the broader scheme of things. The premise is of electricity getting disconnected at the home of Meenal (Nushrratt Bharuccha), a domestic worker living with her sister Binny (Inayat Verma). What ensues are her attempts to get it back. There are a couple of great ideas in it, but for lack of a coherent screenplay, the potential doesn't really get realised. The topic of class politics is intriguing, and this extends to a privileged character like Vinod Agarwal (Maneesh Verma) getting addressed with his full name, while the underprivileged ones like Meenal and Binny are not. At one point, Vinod despises Sushil (Abhishek Banerjee), an istriwala, and thrashes him for no real reason. There's a hint that Meenal is complex too, but since the screenplay places shock value over resolution, not much is made of this.

Snoop Dogg joins Foxx's Day Shift

CE FEATURES

Snoop Dogg has been roped in for Netflix's Jamie Foxx's vampire comedy movie *Day Shift*.

According to reports, actors Meagan Good, Karla Souza, Scott Adkins, Eric Lange, and Zion Broadnax have also joined the film. Earlier, it was announced that Dave Franc, Natasha Liu Bordizzo, Oliver Masucci, Steve Howey, and CS Lee are also part of the film.

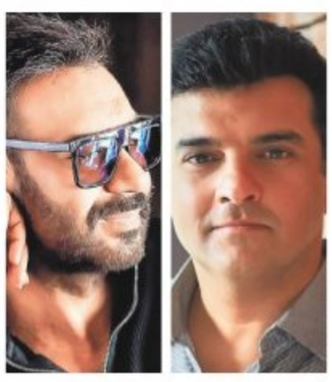
The film marks the directorial debut of JJ Perry, who has worked as second unit director and stunt coordinator on movies like *Fast & Furious 9*, *The Fate of the Furious*, and *Bloodshot*.

The story of Day Shift is about a blue-collar father (Jamie Foxx), who toils hard as a pool cleaner to provide a good life to his eight-year-old daughter. At night, the hard-working dad roams around the city killing and hunting vampires, which is his real source of income.

Filmmaker Chad Stahelski will produce the movie along with Jason Spitz through their banner 87Eleven Entertainment. Shaun Redick and Yvette Yates Redick are also producing the film.

Ajay Devgn, Siddharth to produce Gobar!

CE FEATURES



The film is to be directed by ad-filmmaker Sabal Shekhawat, who has also penned the script along with Sambhit Mishra.

The film's story is about a veterinary doctor who discovers a tangled web of corruption in his state hospital.

Ajay says, people will love the story. "The story of *Gobar!* is at once unique, relatable, and incredibly funny, as well as gripping and entertaining to the point that I'm confident it will compel people to go to the theatres," he says.

"We are very clear about the impact we want to make. We want viewers to laugh, relax, perhaps think a little bit, and be entertained. The standard that Siddharth observes in content creation and filmmaking makes this collaboration very exciting for us," the actor-filmmaker adds.

Kapur says that the film centres around the journey of a common man and comes with a simple message.

"*Gobar!* is a story that chronicles the seemingly pointless but ultimately heroic journey of a simple citizen who deals with corruption in a way that will bring on many laughs, much adventure, and ultimately a simple message about the power of the common man," says Kapur.

He adds: "What makes the film entertaining and unique is that it is a situational comedy that sheds light on the inner workings of power."

Rewind: An Unpleasant Dream

REWIND

Cast: Thej, Chandana, and Sampath

Director: Thej

Producer: Vinod

RATING 2/5

CE FEATURES

Picking up the soul of *Lucid Dream*, the 2017 South Korean science fiction mystery-thriller, first-time director Thej's *Rewind* deserved a round of applause for trying to explore the complex subject, tempered with a local flavour. But, that's it.

With a sharp shrill of unused creativity, Rewind is nothing but a disaster which serves no purpose, or contributes anything close to inventiveness. Filled with disappointment in every frame, it is a classic example of a filmmaker's sense of faculties slowly dying, a tragedy in the sphere of creative art.

As for the plot, the story revolves around a crime reporter Arjun (Thej), whose daughter had been abducted for over three months. With not much help from the police, he takes the scientific approach to find his daughter, trying to track her through 'Lucid Dreams' or 'shared dreams' for which he takes help from his wife, a scientist. His only focus is to find his daughter, taking him through many risks. How his dreams help him trace his daughter as well as the culprit, comes with some twists and turns. The film tries to underline the father-daughter relationship, while highlighting the consequences of being an ardent crime reporter.

Picking up an unusual subject was a smart move by the first-time director, but taking dual responsibilities of acting and being behind the lens, as well as production, Thej ends up with an amateurish execution, leading to a soporific effect. The film comes with a complete miscast, pathetic performances, and uncountable loopholes.

The film's jarring background score adds to the frustrating experience, making it a disappointing watch.